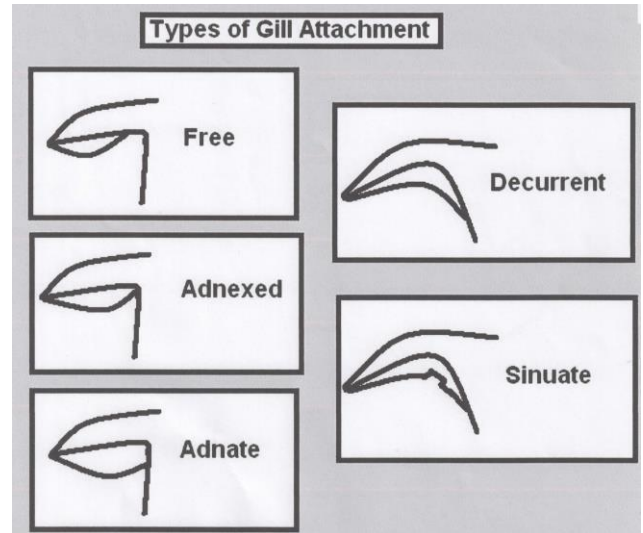


PHOTOGRAPHING FUNGI FOR IDENTIFICATION

Fungi cannot be reliably identified from photographs.

From time to time we receive pictures of fungi for identification and while photographs provide some of the necessary information it is often very difficult to identify fungi purely from these. To assist the process, you should take several photos of them - not just from above, but also underneath, preferably by digging one up carefully. You should provide as much additional information as possible. One needs to see, for example:



- the colour of the gills (or pores), and whether covered wholly or partly by a thin membrane;
- how the gills or pores are attached, whether free, joined to the stem, or running down it;
- what the stem looks like, smooth, scaly, powdery, zoned, and whether solid or hollow;
- whether there is a ring (and what sort) on the stem, hanging down or ascending, single or double;
- if it has rhizomes (roots) growing from the bottom of the stipe;
- if it has a distinctive smell;
- what it is growing on, soil, wood, dung, etc.;
- what type of tree is nearby (if any), conifer or broadleaved, and species if known

There also needs to be some idea of size, eg a scale, or maybe a ruler, acorn or coin placed by the fungus.