Plate 9 Types of stipe

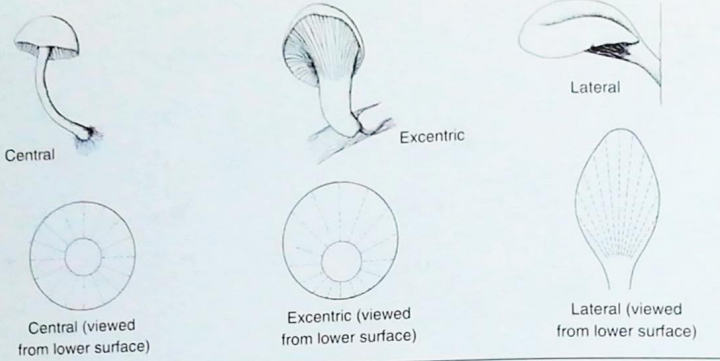


Plate 10 Stipe shapes

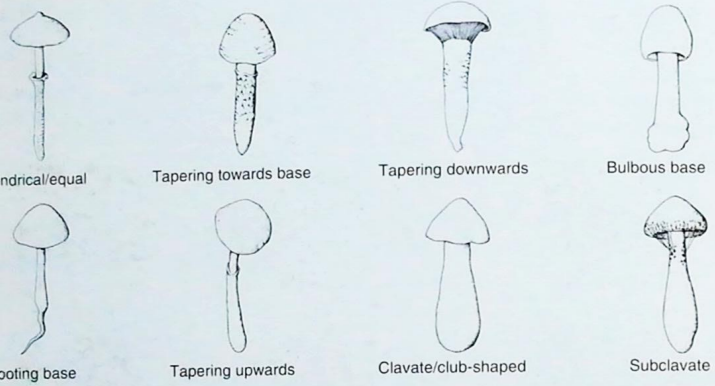


Plate 11 Types of stipe surface

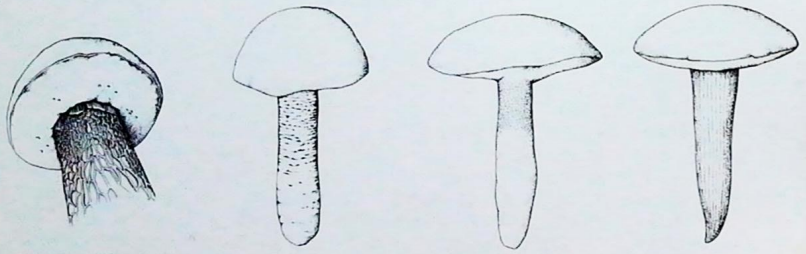


Plate 12 Types of ring

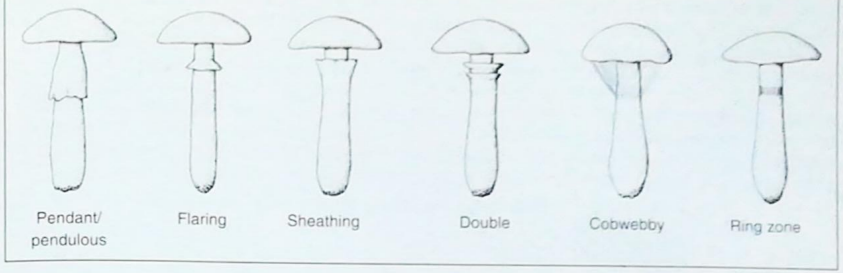
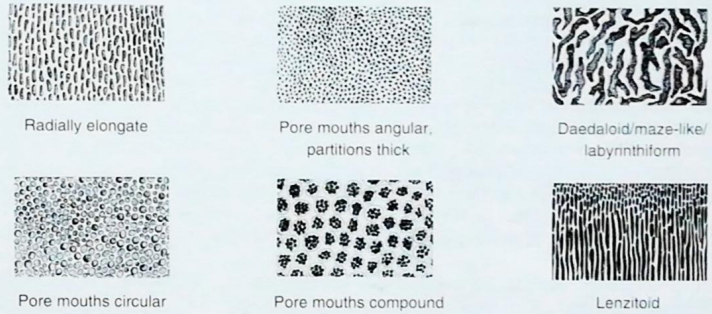


Plate 13 Types of volva

Plate 14 Pore shapes



Spore Prints

The colour of the spores is an important characteristic in the identification of mushrooms. This is best seen in a spore print which yields a good supply of spores for microscopic examination and experimentation in the laboratory. Because spore prints can be stored for many years, they also provide a permanent record for use in future scientific research.

Spore prints are easily made in the following way and as illustrated in Plate 15. Remove a wedge-shaped piece from the cap of a freshly collected, mature fruit-body and place it with the lamellae or tubes downwards on a piece of white paper. In smaller fruit-bodies (10-50 mm diam.) cut off the stipe as close to the cap as possible and place the entire cap on the paper. Invert a small cup over the cap to allow a damp atmosphere to develop and leave undisturbed for 6-10 hours (overnight). Lift the cap carefully from the paper, taking care not to smudge or rub over the surface. A deposit of spores which mirrors the pattern of the lamellae or pores