

RUSSULACEAE OF KASHMIR

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ABSTRACT

The specimens of mushrooms described in this paper are belonging to the family Russulaceae. These are *Russula alutacea*, *R. claroflava*, *R. emetica*, *R. foetens*, *R. cyanoxantha*, *R. lepida* and *Russula lutea*. They have the symbiotic partnership with trees and their cap is sometimes brilliantly coloured.

INTRODUCTION

Mushrooms are fleshy, sometimes tough, umbrella-like sporophores that bear their spores on the surface of gills or plates. In some group of fungi, the spores are borne on gills, but instead on the inside of deep tubes or more rarely, shallow pits formed on the under surface of the fleshy fruiting bodies. In mushrooms, the order Agaricales is cosmopolitan in its occurrence. As a group, the Agaricales occur in a wide variety of habitat ranging from the arctic to the tropics.

Various species of Agaricales produce their fruiting bodies at different seasons of the years. Many wild Agaricales are edible and collected by mushroom lovers. Peoples eat mushrooms due to their flavor and delicacy. In Agaricales, Russulaceae is an important family. This family is easily distinguished from all other families by the presence of sphaerocysts in the context of the glebae and often in the trama of the gills.

Stewart (1924) collected mushrooms from Kashmir at an elevation varying from nine to twelve thousand feet. Ahmad (1956)