PHOTOGRAPHING FUNGI — 4

GORDON DICKSON

The availability of colour for my article in this issue enables me to illustrate some of the points made in earlier numbers.

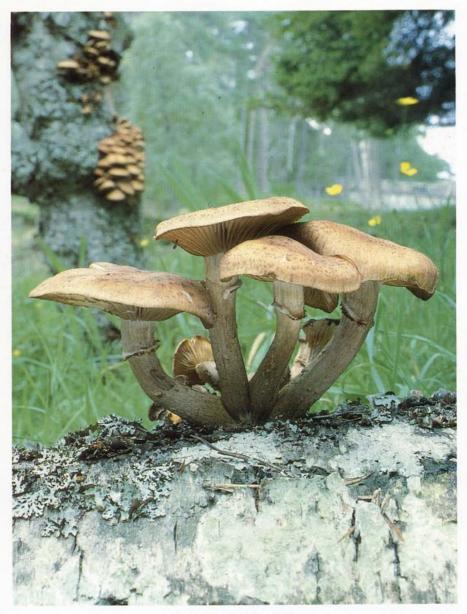
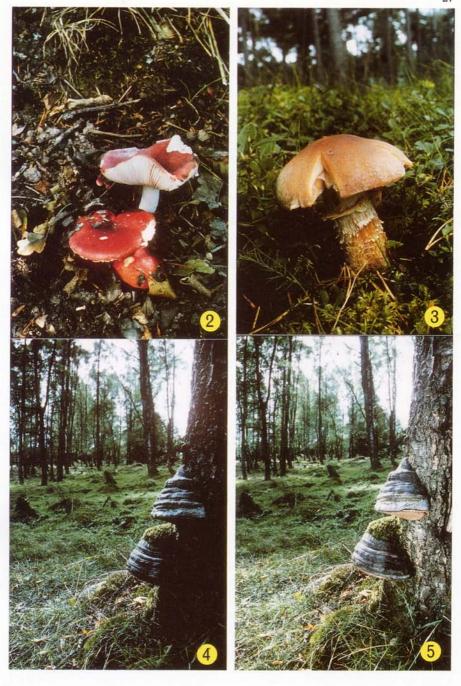


Fig. 1. Armillaria borealis.



Figs. 2-5. Fig. 2. Russula mairei, Fig.3. Rozites caperata, Fig. 4. Fomes fomentarius, Fig. 5. F. fomentarius, using reflector and doubling exposure.

Making use of the material — The photograph (Fig. 2) of Russula mairei Singer shows how selection of a specimen with a 'wavy' cap and slug damage can show gills and flesh in an aesthetically acceptable way. Kodachrome 25 4 secs at f22 in poor light 50mm lens.

A dry spell followed by rain was responsible for cracking the cap of Rozites caperata (Pers.:Fr.) Karsten (Fig. 3), so enabling the gills and flesh to be seen. The background of an old Caledonian Pine woodland, with a Vaccinium understorey, is an essential part of the 'portrait'. Kodachrome 25 1 sec at f22 35 mm lens.

Both pictures of Fomes fomentarius (Fr.) Kickx were taken at the same session; the left hand picture (Fig. 4) had an exposure of 1 sec at f25 on Kodachrome 25. To compensate the fact that one was photographing into the light exposure was doubled and a reflector used to light

up the underside of the fungus in the right hand picture (Fig. 5).

Armillaria borealis Marxm. & Korh. (Fig. 1) was photographed in a typical habitat using a wide angle (28mm) lens and reflector. The inclusion of the slightly out-of-focus specimens on the background tree is deliberate and shows how this species characteristically grows higher up the tree than other species of Armillaria. This is an essential part of the species portrait; without this it would be difficult to differentiate from the others. Kodachrome 64 ¼ sec at f22.

