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Edible mushrooms in Sri Lanka: a review

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Abstract

This review investigates the wild edible mushrooms in Sri Lanka. Wild edible mushrooms are nutritious, delicious and an economically important non-timber forest product. Due to the unawareness and scattered information about mushrooms in the local communities, a few mushroom species are considered edible. Mushrooms live saprotrophically on decaying leaf and wood litter, and soil, and symbiotically live in association with plant roots. Wild mushrooms are seen in summer with the rain and in Sri Lanka mushrooms are seen in the rainy season which brings from the main southwest monsoon and northeast monsoon. Though Sri Lanka has a great wild edible mushroom diversity, the knowledge has not been delivered to the researchers and public properly. According to the published records, 53 wild edible mushroom species are found in Sri Lanka viz., eleven *Lentinus* spp., four *Pleurotus* spp., four *Hygrocybe* spp., three *Agaricus* spp., three *Coprinus* spp., and three *Volvariella* spp. Some common edible *Lentinus* species reported were *L. giganteus*, *L. polychrous* and *L. Strigosus*, while, *Termitomyces alwisii*, *T. eurrhizus*, *T. heimii*, and *T. microcarpus* have also been recorded. We present the first review of Sri Lankan edible mushrooms which will be useful for scientists and the general public in order to understand which wild mushrooms in Sri Lanka are edible.

Keywords: mushroom diversity, non-timber forest products, Sri Lanka, useful mushrooms, wild edible mushrooms