

Fungi

Despite being a very dry place for much of the year, a surprising variety fungi have been observed within Vistoso Trails. The majority of these fungi were visible and observed during the 2022 summer monsoon season. Only a few of those are shown here. Of these, many have not been fully identified. Two specimens are awaiting sequencing at a local laboratory, and this section will be updated if those results allow for further specificity. **Please do not harvest or eat any wild mushrooms** in the preserve. Many are **extremely toxic**.

Thank you to **Terri Clements**, Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the Arizona Mushroom Society and a citizen scientist collaborating with the University of Arizona, for assisting with identifying the fungi in the preserve, and for reading through and advising on this section.

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Common name: Sulcate Sunhead

Scientific name: *Heliocybe sulcata*

Notes: Observed growing on a long dead, desiccated branch. This fungus is common in Arizona.



Common name: Green-spored Parasol

Scientific name: *Chlorophyllum molybdites*

Notes: Observed growing on an irrigated lawn adjacent to the preserve. These seem to be the most common fungus on irrigated lawns near the preserve.



Common name: Field Mushrooms and Allies

Scientific name: Family Agaricaceae

Notes: Observed growing under a mesquite tree. This specimen was collected for sequencing and further identification.



Common name: Amanita Mushrooms

Scientific name: *Amanita* sect. *Lepidella*

Notes: This is a possible novel, undescribed species. It was observed growing in a shaded area of the preserve, right next to the path.

Not Pictured

A few examples of the other fungi found within the preserve are shown below. In some cases the fruiting body is too young to identify by sight. In others the specimen would need to be sequenced in a laboratory to properly identify it. The mushroom at bottom left is likely an *Agaricus*, and one of these is awaiting sequencing.

Desert Inkcaps , Termite Inkcaps, and Saltshaker Stiltballs are three fungi that have been identified here, but are not pictured (as the author and colleagues lack suitable images from the preserve).

