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## Review of *A Guide to Kansas Mushrooms* By Bruce Horn, Richard Kay, and Dean Abel

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*A Guide to Kansas Mushrooms.* By Bruce Horn, Richard Kay, and Dean Abel. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1993. Foreword, preface, introduction, illustrations, photographs, appendices, glossary, annotated bibliography, index. xv + 297 pp. \$29.95 cloth. \$19.95 paper.

One hundred fifty species of Kansas macrofungi are described in this welcome *Guide*. Each described species is accompanied by a photograph, a feature which, along with the authors' attempt to restrict the number of species included, adds greatly to the usefulness of this book. The quality of the photographs is uniformly excellent. The written descriptions are engaging, yet informative. Technical "jargon" is kept to a minimum. I found the book easy to read. For example the authors tell us that "Reports on the edibility of this species [*Laccaria laccata*] vary from mediocre to superb, which tells us more about the cooking talents and palates of mushroom

hunters than about the palatability of the fungi they collect.”

It is obvious that the authors are more than casually acquainted with field mycology. The book is sprinkled with incidental information that can be obtained only by extensive field experience.

A number of features are especially useful. The seasonal time of appearance of each species is noted. The issue of edibility is addressed along with a general discussion of mushroom toxins. Cooking instructions are given as is a brief history of mycology in Kansas. The latter is presumably by the second author, who is a history professor at the University of Kansas.

A list of more common, easily identified species is given. The keys are dichotomous, which is somewhat limiting but this is overcome by the excellent photographs and species descriptions. The decision to restrict the coverage to more commonly encountered species makes this *Guide* very useful to the amateur mushroom hunter.

There are also useful sections on mushroom photography, collecting tips (including dangers encountered in the woods), mushroom habitats, and equipment needed for collecting.

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