

2017 Reports of Mushroom Poisoning in North America Summary of Voluntary Reporting to NAMA

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As an organization, NAMA is engaged in discussions with Poison Centers across North America and with the Centers for Disease Control in an effort to improve reporting since it is clear that we are currently learning about less than 1% of all cases reported to poison centers, hospitals and veterinarians. Furthermore, the amount we are learning about the cases we do hear about is often very fragmentary. Our hope is that all poison centers, doctors, veterinarians, and NAMA members will encourage anyone involved in a mushroom poisoning to file a report with NAMA.

For the data I do have, I have divided the material into three groups – adverse reactions to commonly edible species, poisoning by known toxic mushrooms, and poisoning of dogs (the only animals where poisoning reports were received in 2017). Because the data we have is both voluntary and fragmentary, no conclusions can be drawn from this report about whether men or women are more susceptible to certain mushrooms or to what degree age is a factor. From the large percentage of reports of adverse reactions to edible species, the only conclusion I came to is that people are more likely to report an adverse reaction to a known edible species than to admit that they had made an identification error and consequently poisoned themselves. As usual, some people made some absolutely astounding mistakes in identification. Other people simply consumed any mushroom without an identification attempt.

To me, the most notable case was three toddlers who consumed what was reported as *Amanita bisporigera*. They were taken to a hospital within two hours of their misadventure. With prompt treatment, they suffered no known adverse reactions.

Table I. Human Poisoning Cases from Normally Edible Species

Mushroom Species and Cooking Details	Where	Sex/ Age	Onset (hrs.)	Symptoms and Comments
<i>Agaricus augustus</i> old, dried up, raw	WA	? Child	?	Diarrhea
<i>Agaricus bisporus</i> cooked	MI	F Adult	6	Intestinal cramps, vomiting, nausea
<i>Agaricus bisporus</i> Unknown preparation	CA	F Adult	<1	Chills, diarrhea, intestinal cramps, throat swelling
<i>Agaricus bisporus</i> “portabella” cooked	MA	M,F Adult	6	Intestinal cramps, diarrhea, headache, weakness
<i>Boletus edulis</i> “porcini” rehydrated and then cooked	?	M,F Adult	4	Flushing, fever, diarrhea, intestinal cramps, vomiting, drowsy, nausea, weakness, headache

Table I. Human Poisoning Cases from Normally Edible Species (Continued)

<i>Chlorophyllum rachodes</i> (possible <i>C. molybdites</i> ?) unknown preparation	CA	M Adult	6	Diarrhea, vomiting, dizzy, intestinal cramps, sweating, nausea
<i>Coprinopsis atramentaria</i> 24 raw (thought was <i>A. augustus</i>)	CO	M Adult	5	Dizzy, weak, sharply increased heart rate
<i>Grifola frondosa</i> cooked	ON	M Adult	0.5	Intestinal cramps, nausea, pain
<i>Hypomyces lactiflorum</i> cooked	BC	F Adult	2	Intestinal cramps, sweating, vomiting, nausea
<i>Laetiporus cincinnatus</i> cooked	MO	F Adult	?	Nausea, vomiting
<i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i> cooked	ME	M Adult	10	Intestinal cramps, vomiting, nausea, significant constipation
<i>Leccinum</i> species cooked	WY	M Adult	5-6	Flushing, diarrhea, drowsy, nausea, weakness
<i>Leccinum "aurantiacum"</i> group lightly cooked	NH	M Adult	6	Very severe diarrhea, intestinal cramps, sweating, vomiting, nausea, weakness
<i>Leccinum "aurantiacum"</i> and <i>Harrya (Boletus) chromapes</i> lightly cooked	NH	M Adult	7	Diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, bloating
<i>Lentinula edodes</i> (Shiitake) consumed raw 4 days in a row	OH	F Adult	Days	Flagellate dermatitis with painful welts, diarrhea
<i>Lentinula edodes</i> (Shiitake) raw	OH	F Adult	4-7 days	Flagellate rash, intense itching, nausea, weakness
<i>Morchella esculenta</i> group raw (dime-sized piece)	OH	F Adult	1.5	Flushing, dizzy, disoriented, drowsy, burning rash
<i>Morchella</i> species 6 to 8 lightly cooked	MN	M Adult	1	Chills, diarrhea, intestinal cramps, sweating, disoriented, vomiting, nausea, drowsy
<i>Pleurotus</i> (Oyster mushroom), 2 tablespoons, cooked	MI	F Adult	3-4	Diarrhea, nausea, intestinal cramps
<i>Stropharia rugosoannulata</i> preparation unknown	MN	M Adult	1	Hallucinations
<i>Stropharia rugosoannulata</i> cooked	PA	F Adult	?	Diarrhea, intestinal cramps

Table II. Human Poisoning Cases from Normally Poisonous Species

Mushroom Species and Cooking Details	Where	Sex/ Age	Onset (hrs.)	Symptoms and Comments
<i>Amanita bisporigera</i> group raw	MO	sex? 3,3,4 years	none	Hospitalized two hours post ingestion, intensive care, no symptoms as of last report
<i>Amanita muscaria</i> handled only, not eaten	UT	F Adult	<1	Vivid dreams, tingling fingers, diarrhea, intestinal cramps
<i>Amanita muscaria</i> raw	WA	? teen	?	Hallucinating
<i>Amanita muscaria</i> raw	CT	F Adult	?	Hallucinating, disoriented, paranoid, frightened
<i>Amanita pantherina</i> preparation unknown	WA	M Adult	?	Confused, shouting at times (also had consumed a lot of alcohol).
<i>Amanita pantherina</i> raw	WA	? Infant	none	Remained asymptomatic after consuming three bites
<i>Amanita pantherina</i> cooked, mistaken for <i>A. velosa</i>	WA	M Adult	?	Hallucinations, dizzy, disoriented, confused, vomiting, delirious
<i>Amanita velatipes</i> cooked	NH	M,F Adult	?	Hallucinating, disoriented, nausea, muscle spasms, agitation, fear
<i>Galerina</i> or <i>Conocybe</i> slim stipe, no ring, preparation?	WA	? Adult	?	Mild stomach ache
<i>Galerina marginata</i> (= <i>G. autumnalis</i>), cooked	MI	F Adult	10-11	Chills, flushing, diarrhea, dizzy, intestinal cramps, sweating, recovery over course of more than one week
<i>Gymnopilus spectabilis</i> large quantity raw, apparent suicide attempt	CT	M Adult	?	Hallucinations, disorientation, vomiting, nausea, septic shock
<i>Omphalotus illudens</i> cooked	ME	M Adult	2.5	Chills, intestinal cramps, vomiting, nausea, weakness

Table III. Dog Poisoning Cases

Mushroom Details	Where	Onset (hrs.)	Symptoms and Comments
<i>Agrocybe</i> species – old and rotten	MD	?	“Not doing well”
<i>Amanita bisporigera</i> group	NY	?	Two dogs died
<i>Amanita crenulata</i> found in yard	VT	?	Two dogs from same family died in yard one year apart
<i>Amanita phalloides</i>	CA	?	Died
<i>Amanita</i> presume <i>A. phalloides</i> or <i>A. ocreata</i>	CA	?	Died
<i>Astraeus hygrometricus</i>	CA	?	Diarrhea
<i>Clitocybe</i> species	CA	?	Vomiting and diarrhea
<i>Conocybe</i> species?	WA	0.5	Diarrhea, salivation, vomiting
<i>Galerina marginata</i>	CA	2	Vomiting
<i>Helvella vespertina</i> probable (ID from poor photo)	MD	?	Diarrhea, salivation, projectile vomiting, weak
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	WA	?	Seizures
<i>Leratiomyces ceres</i>	WA	?	Lethargic, no appetite
<i>Lepista sordida</i> or <i>L. tarda</i>	IA	?	Diarrhea for three weeks
<i>Mycena</i> and possible <i>Inocybe</i>	WA	0.5	Vomiting and diarrhea
<i>Panaeolus</i> sp	WA	?	Diarrhea, but cause not clearly tied to the mushroom
<i>Russula</i> species	WA	?	Hyperactive
<i>Scleroderma</i> species	CA	?	Vomiting, diarrhea, lethargic
<i>Scleroderma cepa</i>	WA	?	Vomiting