

## Much room for mushroom muddles in the ALA

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### Abstract

*Amanita* is a large, cosmopolitan genus of mushrooms that is well represented in Australia. They are ecologically important because most species are mycorrhizal with woody plants, and economically important because some species are edible, whilst others are deadly poisonous. Species identification is difficult, depending on macroscopic, microscopic and more recently, molecular characters.

*Amanita* spp. are included in ALA, but to date, the information there appears to be unreliable. The names of Australian species are accepted, however the location of some types, such as *A. albifimbriata*, *A. gracilentata* and *A. hiltonii* are not shown on the maps. Have the type localities not been picked up by ALA?

There also is a problem with the reliability of some names. From ALA records, *A. ananiceps* (*A. ananaeiceps*) occurs along the east coast and in the south west of WA. ALA also gives the accepted name for *A. ananiceps* as *A. farinacea* (east coast distribution), even though these names are not synonymised in Index Fungorum or Mycobank. In my opinion the images of both *A. ananiceps* and *A. farinacea* on ALA represent more than one species.

Is this a common problem with other poorly known groups of uncharismatic species?

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