

Next field guide for southern African macrofungi

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South Africa boasts a great diversity of fungi. Of these, macrofungi (fruiting bodies larger than 5mm) are the most visible and commonly encountered by members of the public. Many of these species are edible or medicinal, or can be exploited for industrial applications. Because fruiting of fungi are sensitive to environmental conditions, such macrofungi can also be used as bio-indicators and long term environmental monitoring. However, the ability to identify them are severely limited by the lack of visual resources in South Africa. The aim of this project is to compile a new photographic field guide to South African macrofungi that follows up on the previous guide from 2010. The same records included in the new guide, as well as those from the previous guide (235 spp.), will also be uploaded into the SAEOL portal. The ready accessibility and visual representation of these fungi will greatly facilitate use, inclusion and research of these fungi.