

**Honey Fungus** *Armillaria mellea* [Phillips(2006) p100] Honey or Boot-lace fungus [ECSS visit No.41]. In dense clusters on or around clumps or stumps of deciduous or coniferous trees, especially hazel, summer to early winter. Cap very variable, convex then flattened or wavy, covered in darker scales, with fine fibres, at the centre. Stem often tapering towards the base, initially with a thick cottony ring. Flesh white, strong smell. Gills white then yellowish becoming pinkish-brown and often dark spotted with age. Edible when cooked but can cause stomach upsets. The fungus spreads by long black rhizomorphs, resembling bootlaces. One of the most dangerous parasites of trees, causing intense white rot.

