

It is quite variable in color, varying from pure white through yellowish to olive. Some place the white forms in a different species.

The cap is 1.5 to 4 inches broad, at first bell shaped, finally nearly flat, fleshy, viscid or shiny when fresh, smooth, often with a few loose white scales. The color varies from white through yellow to olive green, the dark forms being more common in Ontario.

The stalk is 2 to 8 inches long, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch thick, hollow, white, or colored like the cap, but lighter in shade, becoming discolored on land etc. It ends in an abrupt bulb which generally has a sharp rim standing up around it, forming a sort of cup, called poison cup or volva. This poison cup is usually deeply buried in the soil, so that in order to find it it is necessary to dig the plant up.

Gills white and remain white, never becoming pink or brown.



Fig. 18. Destroying Angel. *Deadly Poisonous*. Natural Size (after Atkinson).



Fig. 19. Young Stage of the Destroying Angel. *Deadly Poisonous*. Natural Size (Original).

The ring is white, prominent, and is high up on the stalk close to the cap. The ring is attached to the stalk, not loose as in the smooth white mushroom or parasol mushroom.

The poison in the Deadly Agaric is phallin. This poison, unfortunately, has no pronounced taste or odor, and gives no warning of its presence. Unfortunately, also, the symptoms of poisoning do not manifest themselves until 9 to 11 hours after the fungus is eaten. There is then considerable abdominal pain, and there may be cramps in the legs accompanied by convulsions and even lock-jaw and other tetanic spasms. The pulse is weak and abdominal pain is rapidly followed by vomiting and extreme diarrhea, the intestinal discharges assuming the rice-water condition characteristic of cholera. These later symptoms persist, generally with-