Lobster Mushroom

Hypomyces lactifluorum

Missouri Mycological Society - http://www.missourimycologicalsociety.org/

Hypomyces lactifluorum is a mold that infects other mushrooms, especially Russula brevipes and Lactarius piperatus, and changes their shape, color and flavor before they emerge.

Russula brevipes infected by Hypomyces lactifluorum

Coloring Guide:

Size: The Lobster mushroom is the size of its host mushrooms, cap: 6-30 cm (2.4-12") diam., stipe: 3-8 cm (1.4-3") long. However, the cap is deformed into a funnel by the parasite.

Other Characteristics: The Lobster mushroom is edible, with a slight sea-food taste and dense flesh. Find a mushroomer and go hunting with him, to learn to recognize and gather it.

GO HUNTING WITH EXPERIENCED MUSHROOMERS BEFORE TRYING WILD MUSHROOMS!

What eats Lobster Mushrooms: squirrels, chipmunks and other rodents, skunks, shrews, moles, deer and turkeys, fly and beetle larvae

What Lobster Mushrooms consume: they are parasitic on Russula and Lactarius mushrooms

North American Distribution* Missouri Distribution*

Habitat (home/food/water): temperate forests of coniferous or deciduous trees where Russula or Lactarius live

Home: forest floor

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