

The Death Cap Mushroom (*Amanita phalloides*)

The American Topical Association which I'm a member has an annual online '[One Page Exhibit](#)' gallery. This is my 2025 entry.

Stamps depicting fungi is a well established topical but with so many to choose from a subset could be selected and my own interest is those stamps depicting the most poisonous species. The death cap mushroom (*Amanita phalloides*) is one of the deadliest. This is in contrast to some other species in the genus such as the highly esteemed edible Caesar's mushroom (*A. caesarea*).

David Moore's website '[World of Fungi](#)' has a comprehensive database of philately items depicting fungi. Up until 2012 there are over 60 entries for *A. phalloides* so only a small selection have been acquired with examples below.



Spain, XX Philatelic Exhibition, June 27-28, 1983, Sestao.

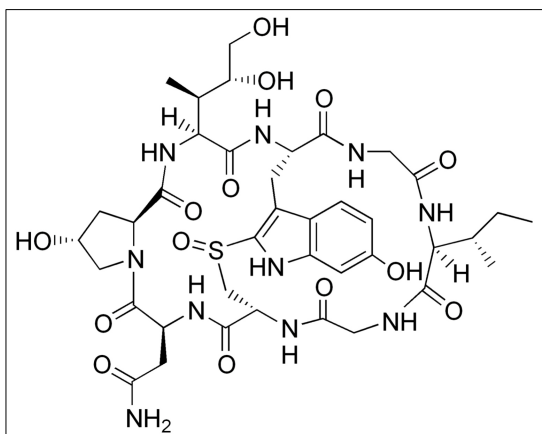
Russia, May 15th 1986, 'Poisonous Mushrooms'.



Angola 1993. Poland 1959. Estonia 2013.



One of the toxins identified in the species is α -amanitin. The presenter has a work background in chemistry and likes to support this type of topical with presentations of the structures of the toxins. Molecular modelling kits of various types are readily available to build such molecules with the aid of published skeletal formula presented on Wikipedia or online molecule databases.



Skeletal formula of α -amanitin (source Wikipedia).

Molecular model built using the molymod® system.

