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"Talking Fungus: Finding Language for a Troubled Kingdom"

Pouliot, Alison



Galerina marginata. Or a Discretion of *Galerina*? © Alison Pouliot. All rights reserved.

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Language develops for the things we notice or confer significance. It is, of course, hard to discuss

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any subject without appropriate language, and the words we have shape our thoughts and impressions. In the English language, there's only a minimal vernacular vocabulary for talking about fungi relative to those for the other two major kingdoms of life—animals and plants. Indeed, fungi form a kingdom of their own. They live inside their food, they do not photosynthesise like plants, and they are in fact more closely related to us humans and other animals than to flowers or trees. Yet language is lacking to describe them—and when language is lacking, negative impressions and misunderstandings can arise. (From the article)

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