

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Plasmodium</b></p> <p>Myxomycete plasmodia occur in cool, moist, shady places such as within crevices of decaying wood, beneath the partially decayed bark of logs and stumps, and in leaf litter. Consequently, they are not seen as frequently as are the fruiting bodies. Plasmodia may be colorless or, as is more often the case, strikingly colored yellow, orange, or red. The plasmodium, a thin mass of protoplasm that can actually creep along, represents the main vegetative stage in the myxomycete life cycle.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Arcyria cinerea</i></b></p> <p><i>Arcyria cinerea</i> is relatively common in the field. The stalked fruiting bodies may occur singly, scattered, or sometimes united by their fused stalks in fingerlike clusters of two or more. The “fingers” are ovate to cylindrical, usually tapered, and pale gray to yellowish brown in color. These fruiting bodies can be found on decaying logs, stumps, wood debris on the forest floor, bark, and dead leaves.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Arcyria denudata</i></b></p> <p><i>Arcyria denudata</i> is one of the most commonly encountered myxomycetes. The stalked fruiting bodies are usually closely spaced to crowded together in groups. The ovate to cylindrical shaped upper portion is at first pinkish red to brick red in color but turns to brown upon aging. <i>Arcyria denudata</i> can be found on decaying wood and occasionally on bark. This myxomycete is easily recognized by its “cotton candy” appearance.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa</i></b></p> <p>The fruiting bodies of <i>Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa</i> are unlike those of other myxomycetes. They typically consist of a series of erect, simple or branched columns that are usually white, but sometimes pink, pale yellow to yellowish green in color. The tiny, ovoid spores are attached to the fruiting body by individual threadlike stalks. Look for <i>Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa</i> on the decaying wood of logs and stumps.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Fuligo septica</i></b></p> <p><i>Fuligo septica</i> is one of the most common, conspicuous, and best known myxomycetes. The fruiting body can be quite large, sometimes reaching the size of a dinner plate in maximum extent and a thickness of up to an inch. The color can range from white to pale or bright pink to red to bright yellow. <i>Fuligo septica</i> can be found on decaying wood and bark, forest floor litter, wood debris and soil; it sometimes fruits on living plants and in lawns.</p>	<p>A decaying log or stump seems an unlikely place to find one of nature’s most extraordinary creatures. However, if one searches carefully during the summer and early autumn, especially after a period of rainy weather, almost any woodland will yield a number of the fruiting bodies of a truly remarkable group of organisms, the slime molds. Slime molds, or myxomycetes, as biologists call them, may not have a particularly attractive name, but members of the group produce fruiting bodies that exhibit incredibly diverse forms and colors and are often objects of considerable beauty. Most myxomycete fruiting bodies are no more than a millimeter or two (about a sixteenth of an inch) in height. This photoguide provides illustrations of a vegetative plasmodium and 17 examples of fruiting bodies.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>6</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Cribraria cancellata</i></b></p> <p>The fruiting bodies of <i>Cribraria cancellata</i> are stalked, often occur in extensive colonies, and the upper portion tends to be nodding. The color can range from deep reddish brown to brownish purple. The distinctive cage-like structure that forms the upper portion of the fruiting body makes this very common and widespread species one of the easiest of all myxomycetes to recognize. <i>Cribraria cancellata</i> can be found on decaying wood, particularly that of coniferous trees.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Stemonitis axifera</i></b></p> <p><i>Stemonitis axifera</i> produces stalked fruiting bodies that are a distinctive rusty brown color, erect, and cylindrical in shape. The fruiting bodies are usually found in small to medium sized clusters and can sometimes approach an inch in height. The stalk is long, black, and shiny. <i>Stemonitis axifera</i> is a very common myxomycete and is usually found on decaying logs, stumps, and other wood debris on the forest floor.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>8</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Diderma effusum</i></b></p> <p>Typical fruitings of <i>Diderma effusum</i> are easily recognized by their broadly spreading plasmodiocarps (often somewhat vein-shaped, much like the plasmodium from which they were derived). The sessile fruiting body is noticeably flattened, white on the outside, and has a dark purple internal spore mass. <i>Diderma effusum</i> is found on dead leaves and other plant debris on the forest floor.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Leocarpus fragilis</i></b></p> <p>The fruiting body of <i>Leocarpus fragilis</i> is not likely to be confused with that of any other myxomycete, although a small fruiting could be mistaken for a mass of insect eggs. These fruiting bodies are stalked, clustered, and appear ovoid or egg-shaped. The color can range from pale yellow to deep maroon. <i>Leocarpus fragilis</i> is more likely to be encountered in coniferous forests. Fruitings usually occur on forest floor litter though sometimes fruits on living plants.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Cribraria intricata</i></b></p> <p>The fruiting bodies of <i>Cribraria intricata</i> are stalked, with a globe-shaped upper portion that is usually nodding but sometimes erect. The fruiting bodies can be yellowish to blackish brown in color. <i>Cribraria intricata</i> has a distinctive net-like structure that surrounds the mass of spores. <i>Cribraria intricata</i> often occurs in large fruitings on decaying logs and wood debris on the forest floor.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>11</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Metatrichia vesparia</i></b></p> <p>The fruiting bodies of <i>Metatrichia vesparia</i> are found singly to tightly clustered, usually with firmly united erect stalks. The color can be wine-red to dark maroon or sometimes nearly black. The clustered fruiting bodies, which resemble miniature paper wasp nests, are distinctive and make this myxomycete easy to identify. <i>Metatrichia vesparia</i> is found on decaying wood or bark and usually appears later in the year than most myxomycetes.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>12</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Hemitrichia serpula</i></b></p> <p><i>Hemitrichia serpula</i> is one of the most distinctive myxomycetes and is not likely to be confused with any other species. The fruiting body is sessile and forms a definite reticulum that is often several inches in extent. The color can range from bright yellow to rusty brown. <i>Hemitrichia serpula</i> can be observed fruiting on decaying logs, stumps, and other types of wood debris on the forest floor.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>13</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Diachea leucopodia</i></b></p> <p>Like <i>Hemitrichia serpula</i>, The fruiting bodies of <i>Diachea leucopodia</i> are very distinctive and unlikely to be confused with those of any other myxomycete. The fruiting bodies are stalked, elliptical to cylindrical, erect, and can be iridescent blue, purple, or bronze. The stout, tapered, white stalk can reach up to one-half the total height. <i>Diachea leucopodia</i> can be found on dead leaves, twigs, and other forest debris; it also commonly fruits on living plants.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>14</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Lycogala epidendrum</i></b></p> <p><i>Lycogala epidendrum</i> is one of the most widely distributed and best known myxomycetes. The fruiting body is relatively large (up to half an inch in diameter) and typically more or less globose, although it can be somewhat angular when individual fruiting bodies are crowded together. The color can range from pink to yellowish-brown to olive to nearly black. <i>Lycogala epidendrum</i> occurs on decaying wood and less commonly on bark.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>15</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Tubifera ferruginosa</i></b></p> <p>The fruiting bodies of <i>Tubifera ferruginosa</i> lack a stalk but occur in tightly crowded groups. The individual fruiting bodies are cylindrical to oval in shape and as much as half an inch long. A large fruitings can reach several inches in total extent. Colors commonly seen are pale amber to reddish brown to purplish brown. <i>Tubifera ferruginosa</i> occurs on decaying wood or wood debris although it can occasionally be found on forest floor leaf litter.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>16</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Physarum nutans</i></b></p> <p>The fruiting bodies of <i>Physarum nutans</i> are stalked and usually occur in scattered groups. The stalk is dark, slender, tapered, and longitudinally wrinkled. The upper, spore-containing portion is usually nodding and grayish white in color due to the presence of lime. Upon breaking open, the black spores contained within may be seen. <i>Physarum nutans</i> fruits on decaying wood and bark.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>17</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Hemitrichia calyculata</i></b></p> <p><i>Hemitrichia calyculata</i> is a very common and easily recognized myxomycete. The fruiting bodies are stalked, scattered to loosely clustered, and less than a quarter of an inch tall. <i>Hemitrichia calyculata</i> is bright to dark yellow in color. The stalk is slender, reddish brown to black, and represents up to one half the total height of the fruiting body. Decaying wood and (less commonly) bark are the usual substrates for <i>Hemitrichia calyculata</i>.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>18</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Trichia favoginea</i></b></p> <p>The sessile fruiting bodies of <i>Trichia favoginea</i> occur in densely crowded colonies. The individual fruiting bodies are oval to cylindrical in shape. <i>Trichia favoginea</i> is usually bright yellow-brown in color, with a noticeably shiny surface. The fruiting bodies of <i>Trichia favoginea</i> can be found on decaying logs, stumps, other wood debris, or bark. Occasionally, fruiting bodies also can be found on dead leaves.</p>