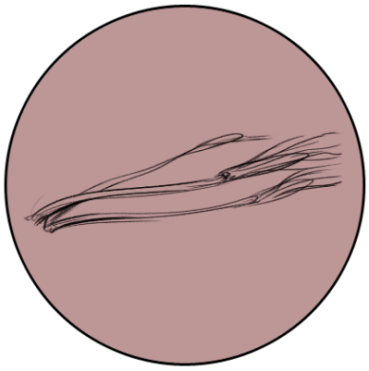
BOWING AGARIC



► **Height:** 8in (though the stalk is limp so this mushroom never stands up straight)
► **Classification:** Fungus
► **Substrate:** Trunks of underwater trees

The bowing agaric is a marine member of the sceptis Order of fungi, and is named for its tendency to bend - or to bow - in the current. It is useless, though harmless, to the natives of Kaleida.

Physiology

The bowing agaric is a dull brown mushroom with a stalk that can reach 8 inches, an elongated cap, and long, thin gills. The stalk, cap, and gills are flexible, which allows them to bend in the direction of the tide whether it is ebbing or flowing.

It is locally common: multiple bowing agarics grow in small clumps within any one, given seascape.

Reproduction
This fungus relies on the current to disperse its spores. The cap has evolved to remain closed for longer than those of most other fungi, but when it opens it tends to be pulled off the stalk and to free-float, continuing to disperse spores until it sinks to the sea bed.

Geographical Distribution

Most species of the bowing agaric grow in the coasts around Oplayn, Wesserty, and the southern parts of Accra Forest. It grows in clearer waters with relatively strong sunlight, although this may have more to do with the fact that it grows on living plants

🐳 Position in Ecosystem 🐳

The bowing agaric grows on the trunks of several underwater tree species, to the point that it is not commonly associated with any particular species. It is moderately common but does not appear to do any harm to its host. It tends to thrive in areas where it has successfully grown higher on a trunk where its spores can travel further.

🚀 Technology 🚀

The bowing agaric largely goes unnoticed by the mesolithic population of Kaleida. For this reason, they have not harnessed it in any way.

Agriculture

Bowing agarics are not considered worth eating so are not farmed. While clumps of bowing agaric are not hard to find in the wild, they are not worth gathering.

Energy Usage

This fungus takes its energy from healthy underwater trees but does not appear to harm them.

History

Given the unobtrusive nature of the bowing agaric combined with its lack of usefulness to the mesolithics of Kaleida, it has not impacted the history of the planet.

Evolution / Genesis

While the existence of the bowing agaric has likely impacted the evolutionary path of the trees it grows on in some way, it is not obvious how. It is possible that this fungus impacted some species of relatively fragile tree which may now be extinct, or adjusted their evolutionary path to mitigate the risk of a bowing agaric infestation.

Culture

The mesolithics of Kaleida have found no use for any species of bowing agaric. While the natives are aware of the mushrooms' existence due to how locally common they are, the bowing agaric has no place in their culture.

Food

This mushroom does not make good eating.

Politics

The bowing agaric's lack of value or risk to the mesolithics and off-worlders of Kaleida alike mean that it has had no impact on the politics on or around the planet.

Utopian / Dystopian Qualities

Neutral. This is not a pretty mushroom, nor a useful one, neither does it present any threat to biodiversity or quality of life.

💲 Economy 💲

Once again, the bowing agaric has no value to the sapients of Kaleida, nor to the off-worlders, so is not traded.

Healthcare and Medicine

The bowing agaric has no known medicinal properties.

Credits

Bowing agaric is © The Character Consultancy
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~Hayley, The Character Consultancy