

# **Exploring the World of Basidiomycota (Fungi)**

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This talk explores the hidden world of fungi: organisms that are everywhere around us and play essential roles in life on Earth, from recycling nutrients in soil to helping plants grow and producing foods, medicines, and materials we use every day. Drawing on examples from nature, agriculture, and medicine, it highlights both the “good” side of fungi, such as fermentation and plant partnerships, and the “bad,” including crop diseases and human infections. It also looks ahead, showing how scientists are using fungi to clean up pollution, create sustainable materials, and develop new technologies. Overall, the presentation reveals why fungi matter far more to our lives and our planet than most people realize.

And some book recommendations:

Entangled Life

The Hidden Kingdom of Fungi

Mycelium Running

Coffee is Not Forever

The Mold in Dr Florey's Coat