What to do if you find it:

Make an observation

The first thing to do is to **record your observation**. We prefer to use the iNaturalist app for that (visit www.iNaturalist.org to learn more), but you could also upload your observation to Mushroom Observer (visit www.MushroomObserver.org). The QR code to the right will take you to the Fungal Diversity Survey (FunDiS for short) website on how to "Contribute Observations" to the project.

fundis.org/observe/contribute-observations

The best thing you can do is take *lots* of photographs and notes. Typically, smartphones will automatically georeference any photos taken, but it is good practice to note your exact location, preferably with GPS coordinates, and what trees or other habitat features are nearby. For example, was the mushroom growing from decaying grass and humus, or from bare soil? Did it have a particular smell?

Collect a specimen

If you are in an area where it is allowed and have any necessary permits, **we strongly urge you to create a vouchered collection**. This means a dried specimen for deposit in a herbarium, where researchers can access it for things like DNA sequencing. If you don't know how to do this, please see:

fundis.org/sequence/sequence/dry-your-specimens

In California, collecting mushrooms is usually allowed in National Forests **with a permit**. Permits can be obtained at the headquarters of the National Forest you're visiting, and are usually inexpensive or free. However, restrictions vary among the individual National Forests, so make sure to find out the specifics when picking up your permit. State and County Parks generally do not allow mushroom picking, but regulations vary, so make sure to check your destination before you go out. In Oregon and Washington, most State and Federal lands allow collecting up to a gallon without a permit, but again, regulations vary, so check ahead of time.

Don't forget to look for other mushrooms and fungi while you're there! Like other Rare Fungi, part of why this mushroom is rare is because it grows **in a place that mushroom pickers don't generally go:** seasonally wet grasslands. Since you've already got iNaturalist open, why not record your other finds?

> Most mushrooms are like fruit: picking an apple from an apple tree doesn't hurt the tree. In the same way, **harvesting mushrooms does not generally hurt the mycelium of the fungus**. We do still recommend leaving some mushrooms behind, and not picking perennial mushrooms, like brackets and conks.

Who to contact

If you think you've found this mushroom, and you're not sure about any of the above, such as how to report the find, whether you can collect it, or what to do with it once you have collected it, please contact us!

conservation@fundis.org

Habitat

The Meadow Amanita is known from **seasonally wet grasslands and prairies**. Is it as uncommon as it seems, or is this habitat simply undervisited? That's another reason to visit seasonally wet, treeless grassy areas to look for this fungus: **grasslands are mycologically underexplored**, and there are likely other new species here! Keep your eyes open and you may make a discovery.

Photo by Bitty A. Roy

More information

Siegel N & Schwarz C. 2016. *Mushrooms of the Redwood Coast: A Comprehensive Guide to the Fungi of Coastal Northern California*. Ten Speed Press: pg. 43.

Arora D. 1986. *Mushrooms Demystified*. 2nd Edition. Ten Speed Press: pg. 275–276 (as "Anonymous Amanita").

Tulloss RE, Lindgren JE, Arora D, Wolfe BE, & Rodríguez-Caycedo C. 2014. *Amanita pruittii*—a new, apparently saprotrophic species from US Pacific coastal states. *Amanitace*, 1(1): 1-9.

Tulloss RE, Lindgren JE, Arora D, Wolfe BE, Rodríguez Caycedo, C, Kudzma LV. 2020. *Amanita pruittii*. in: Tulloss RE, Yang ZL, eds. *Amanitaceae studies*. Accessed 24 Sept. 2020.
amanitaceae.org/?Amanita+pruittii

Mushroom Observer (19 obs.):
mushroomobserver.org/name/show_name/15254

iNaturalist (12 obs.):
iNaturalist.org/taxa/922857-Saproamanita-pruittii

The Meadow Amanita

Amanita pruittii

Photo by Damon Tighe

RARE

Status: ***RARELY COLLECTED***

> Recently described from Lane County, Oregon (in 2014), this is one odd *Amanita!* First, it is not tree-associated, but instead **typically occurs in grasslands** and is one of only a small number of non-mycorrhizal *Amanita* species. Second, it can fruit in very large numbers **when the soil is disturbed**. For example, it has been found in wet sorghum fields, and in a wet prairie that had been bulldozed. The disturbance that would have happened in these grasslands pre-Euro-American settlement is *fire*, and we do see this fungus more often in prairies that have been burnt.

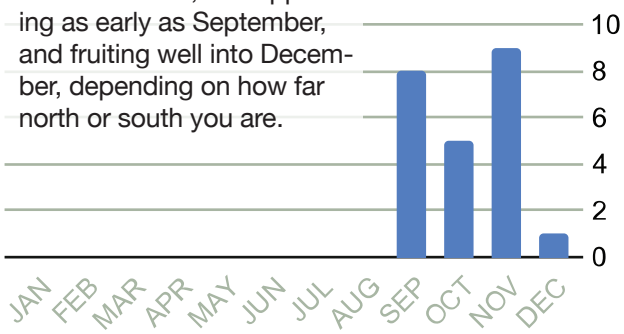
FUNGAL DIVERSITY SURVEY

This pamphlet prepared by:
Roo Vandegrift, Bitty A. Roy & Joanne Schwartz


Photo by Christian Schwarz

When & Where?

Look for this species in the Fall and Winter, first appearing as early as September, and fruiting well into December, depending on how far north or south you are.



Data from iNaturalist & Mushroom Observer

The Meadow Amanita is mostly known from a handful of seasonally wet grasslands around the San Francisco Bay Area, mostly near Santa Cruz, California, and from another few spots around Eugene, Oregon. Look for it in seasonally wet grasslands and prairies as far north as British Colombia, though!

Description

This is not a showy fungus. In *Mushrooms of the Redwood Coast*, Siegel and Schwarz call it "small, dingy, squat, and quick to decay" (pg. 43). If you find an *Amanita* in a grassland that has a **felted, matted grey cap** and a **volva that is scraggly-scaly** (and not in a distinct ring), then you have most likely found it!

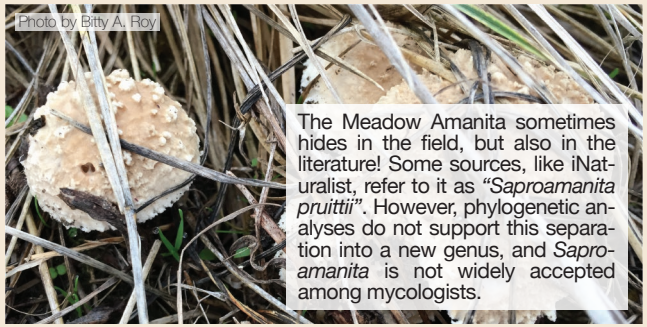


Photo by Bitty A. Roy

The Meadow Amanita sometimes hides in the field, but also in the literature! Some sources, like iNaturalist, refer to it as *"Saproamanita pruittii"*. However, phylogenetic analyses do not support this separation into a new genus, and *Saproamanita* is not widely accepted among mycologists.

What else could it be?

There are a few mushroom species in grasslands that look like the Meadow Amanita. Other *Amanita* species may pop up from time to time, so check for that **scraggly-scaly volva** and **mousy grey felted cap**. Shaggy Parasol mushrooms (*Chlorophyllum* species) have **flat scales on the cap** and a smooth stem. Some species of *Agaricus* might seem similar, but they will not have the **white gills and spores** of the Meadow Amanita.

CAUTION: Never eat wild mushrooms without a confident identification! Contact Poison Control if you think you have eaten a poisonous mushroom: 1-800-222-1222