

Unusual Sightings

Craterellus foetidus

AH Smith

It was one of those summers in the East when temperatures were moderate and moisture was ample. Species listed as uncommon or widely dispersed were turning up in abundance. Joe MacFarland was perplexed at the numbers of the “fragrant black trumpets” in the southern Illinois woods. The specific epithet denotes the

very strong odor of this mushroom but is a misnomer as most who have encountered it would call *Craterellus foetidus* anything but foul-smelling or stinky; they actually have a most fruity, if cloying, aroma. And unlike other, more common black trumpet species, this one is most always seen growing in clusters of 2-4 or even more. Thanks to Joe McFarland for sending in this lovely photo!

