

BEEFSTEAK POLYPORE FUNGUS (*Fistulina hepatica*)

Fungi come in many different forms. You have seen the typical mushroom with a stem and cap, but some look like bird nests, jellies or corals. This fungus is a bracket fungus, and its top looks something like a piece of meat, hence the common name of Beefsteak Fungus. When young it is edible although tough and a bit sour. Please don't damage these specimens, they are more fun to see than to break.

Fungi reproduce by creating spores, rather than seeds. The spores fall from the underside. Sometime the underside has layers of thin membranes, called gills. The underside of this fungus has tiny tubes, called pores; hence the name "Poly (meaning many) pore".

