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In memoriam: Kuulo Kalamees (15.04.1934–6.08.2026)



Estonian mycology has lost one of its most influential representatives. Kuulo Kalamees devoted nearly seven decades to the study, documentation and public understanding of fungi. His work united taxonomy, ecology, field investigation, teaching, nature conservation and the development of Estonian-language mycological literature. Through this unusually broad contribution, he shaped both professional mycology and the wider culture of mushroom study in Estonia.

Kuulo Kalamees was born in Tartu on 15 April 1934. He studied biology and botany at the University of Tartu, where his interest in fungi developed during his student years. His diploma thesis dealt with the agarics of south-eastern Estonia, and he graduated in 1958. His subsequent research remained centred on agaricoid fungi, particularly their taxonomy, ecology, distribution, phenology and productivity. His doctoral work, defended in the 1970s, treated the agarics of Estonia and established a foundation for the modern study of this group in the country.

After beginning his academic career at the University of Tartu, Kalamees joined the Institute of Zoology and Botany in 1969. He later served as Professor of Mycology at the University of Tartu from 1992 to 1997 and thereafter as Professor Emeritus. He also taught mycology at the Estonian University of Life Sciences and remained closely associated with its fungal collections. As a lecturer, supervisor and field teacher, he introduced generations of students to fungal identification and to the careful observation of fungi in their habitats.

Fieldwork was central to Kalamees's scientific practice. In addition to extensive collecting throughout Estonia, he participated in expeditions across a large part of Eurasia, including the Caucasus, Central Asia, Siberia, the Russian Far East, Kamchatka and the Altai, as well as in Western Europe, Greenland and Newfoundland. More than 20,000 specimens collected by him are preserved in fungal collections, including approximately 13,000 specimens from Estonia. This material remains an important resource for taxonomic and biogeographical research.

Kalamees made fundamental contributions to the taxonomy of agaricoid fungi. He described 46 taxa as new to science and established the genus *Tricholomella*. He was especially active in the study of Agaricales and Tricholomatales, including Lyophyllaceae, *Tricholoma*, *Lactarius* and related groups. His research also advanced mycocoenology in Estonia, addressing the composition, seasonal dynamics and productivity of fungal communities in forests, grasslands, peatlands and other ecosystems. The specimens, observations and publications resulting from this work provide an enduring record of fungal diversity in Estonia and across the regions in which he worked.

His contribution extended far beyond specialist taxonomy. Kalamees was a tireless author, editor and communicator who published more than 200 scientific and popular-scientific works, including numerous books. *Seened* (1966), *Meie seeni*

(1969; revised in 1976) and *Eesti seente määraja* (1971–1972) brought authoritative knowledge of fungi to Estonian readers. Under his leadership, the electronic compendium Eesti seenestik was completed in 2000, presenting the taxonomy and ecology of all fungal groups then known from Estonia and helping to consolidate Estonian mycological terminology. Later books prepared with Vello Liiv, including *400 Eesti seent*, *Riisikad* and *Heinikud*, combined accessible identification guidance with original photographs and remained valuable to specialists and the broader public alike.

Kalamees also played a major role in building the Estonian mycological community. In 1963 he was among the founders of the mycological section of the Estonian Naturalists' Society, later the Estonian Mycological Society. He organised exhibitions, field excursions and collaborative studies, and served as president of the Estonian Naturalists' Society from 1976 to 1985. He worked particularly closely with skilled amateur mycologists, demonstrating how professional research and citizen expertise could strengthen one another. He was likewise committed to fungal conservation, contributing to red-list work, the protection of fungal species and surveys of protected areas.

Kuulo Kalamees was also one of the founders of *Folia Cryptogamica Estonica*. The journal provided an important venue for his taxonomic and floristic studies, including descriptions of new taxa and research from Estonia and other parts of Eurasia. It is therefore fitting that this journal records both his life and the nomenclatural legacy represented by the taxa listed below.

Colleagues and students remember an energetic field mycologist who visited forests in every season and in all weather, and who knew where and when noteworthy fungi might appear. He combined exacting scholarship with generosity in sharing knowledge. His legacy endures in collections, publications, names of taxa, Estonian scientific language and, above all, in the many people whom he guided into the study of fungi.

Taxonomic legacy

According to MycoBank (accessed 6 October 2026), Kuulo Kalamees described 38 new species and one new genus, *Tricholomella.* The list below gives these taxa and their holotype specimens; most of the types are deposited in TAAM.

A bibliography of Kalamees's publications was compiled by Vaasma (2009); more recent publications are recorded in the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS). His monographs on *Lactarius* and *Tricholoma* in Estonia are especially noteworthy (Kalamees 2011; Kalamees & Liiv 2019).

- *Tricholomella* Zerova ex Kalamees, Persoonia 14(4): 446 (1992).
- *Agaricus luteoflocculosus* Kalamees, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 17: 1 (1985). Holotype: TAAM121589.
- *Agaricus subsquamuliferus* Kalamees, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 27: 5 (1989). Holotype: TAAM121372.
- *Amanita olivaceogrisea* Kalamees, Conspectus Florum Agaricalium fungorum (Agaricales s.l.) Lithuaniae, Latviae et Estoniae: 45 (1986). Holotype: TAAM153064.
- *Calocybe cerinoides* Kalamees, Z. Mykol. 60(2): 360 (1994). Holotype: LE6332.
- *Calocybe phragmitis* Kalamees, Conspectus Florum Agaricalium fungorum (Agaricales s.l.) Lithuaniae, Latviae et Estoniae: 25 (1986). Holotype: TAAM080611.
- *Camarophyllus albidocinereus* Kalamees, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 27: 3 (1989). Holotype: TAAM121359.
- *Clitocybe subfestiva* Kalamees, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 26: 3 (1987). Holotype: TAAM121343.
- *Collybia fagi* Kalamees, Scripta Mycol. 13: 60 (1986). Holotype: TAAM094613.
- *Conocybe obliquopora* Hauskn. & Kalamees, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 45: 29 (2009). Holotype: TAAM144500.
- *Conocybe semidesertorum* Hauskn. & Kalamees, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 45: 32 (2009). Holotype: TAAM120604.
- *Entoloma subglobispora* Kalamees, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 27: 4 (1989). Holotype: TAAM121371.
- *Galerina ovalispora* Kalamees, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 15: 8 (1981). Holotype: TAAM079472.
- *Gomphidius griseovinaceus* Kalamees, Conspectus Florum Agaricalium fungorum (Agaricales s.l.) Lithuaniae, Latviae et Estoniae: 10 (1986). Holotype: TAAM080772.
- *Gyroporus sulfureus* (Kalamees) Kalamees, Opera Bot. 100: 135 (1989). Holotype: TAAM095146.
- *Hemimycena arctii* Kalamees & Faizova, Izvestiya Akademii Nauk Turkmenskoi SSR: 86 (1983). Holotype: TAAM122294.

- *Hemimycena phlomisii* Kalamees, Sommerfeltia 31: 134 (2008). Holotype: TAAM079647.
- *Hydropus flocculinus* Kalamees, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 26: 7 (1987). Holotype: TAAM121354.
- *Hypholoma flavorhiza* Kalamees & Shchukin, Conspectus Florum Agaricalium fungorum (Agaricales s.l.) Lithuaniae, Latviae et Estoniae: 60 (1986). Holotype: TAAM122500.
- *Inocybe ravaensis* Kalamees & Shchukin, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 23: 4 (1985). Holotype: TAAM114807.
- *Laccaria avachaensis* Kalamees, Biblioth. Mycol. 150: 125 (1993). Holotype: TAAM120340.
- *Lepista juniperi* Kalamees, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 26: 4 (1987). Holotype: TAAM121361.
- *Lyophyllum amygdalosporum* Kalamees, Conspectus Florum Agaricalium fungorum (Agaricales s.l.) Lithuaniae, Latviae et Estoniae: 23 (1986). Holotype: TAAM080865.
- *Marasmius buxicola* Kalamees, Scripta Mycol. 13: 63 (1986). Holotype: TAAM094281.
- *Marasmius epirhododendron* Kalamees, Scripta Mycol. 13: 64 (1986). Holotype: TAAM063355.
- *Marasmius rhododendrorum* Kalamees, Scripta Mycol. 13: 66 (1986). Holotype: TAAM094939.
- *Marasmius rubi* Kalamees, Scripta Mycol. 13: 67 (1986). Holotype: TAAM063354.
- *Melanoleuca brunnea* Kalamees, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 26: 5 (1987). Holotype: TAAM121384. *Melanoleuca zaaminensis* Kalamees, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 26: 6 (1987). Holotype: TAAM121360.
- *Mycena alni* Kalamees, Scripta Mycol. 13: 73 (1986). Holotype: TAAM083600.
- *Mycena pseudolaevigata* Kalamees, Scripta Mycol. 13: 78 (1986). Holotype: TAAM094332.
- *Mycena pseudomaculata* (Kalamees) Kalamees, Opera Bot. 100: 142 (1989). Holotype: TAAM094448.
- *Omphaliaster palustris* Kalamees, Conspectus Florum Agaricalium fungorum (Agaricales s.l.) Lithuaniae, Latviae et Estoniae: 15 (1986). Holotype: TAAM123500.
- *Omphalina fuliginea* Kalamees, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 26: 3 (1987). Holotype: TAAM121366.
- *Psathyrella badhyzensis* Kalamees, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 15: 7 (1981). Holotype: TAAM079478.
- *Psathyrella gramina* Kalamees, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 27: 7 (1989). Holotype: TAAM121304.
- *Tricholoma frondosae* Kalamees & Shchukin, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 38: 14 (2001). Holotype: TAAM124177.
- *Tricholoma ulvinenii* Kalamees, Folia Cryptog. Estonica 38: 18 (2001). Holotype in OULU; isotype: TAAM122081.
- *Tubaria ovoidospora* Kalamees & Faizova, Izvestiya Akademii Nauk Turkmenskoi SSR: 87 (1983). Holotype: TAAM122293.

Acknowledgments

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