

# Growing Use of Amanita Muscaria Mushrooms Raises Concern Among Researchers

A new study reveals a sharp rise in Amanita muscaria mushroom use based on Google searches across the U.S.

## Research Findings

Researchers from UC San Diego highlight a significant increase in public interest, marking a 114% spike in searches from 2022 to 2023. This surge reflects growing curiosity and potential use of Amanita muscaria, commonly known as Fly Agaric mushrooms.

## Comparing with Psilocybin

As interest in psilocybin mushrooms grows, Amanita muscaria is gaining traction despite its more toxic nature. Unlike psilocybin mushrooms, which are noted for their therapeutic potential, Amanita muscaria contains psychoactive compounds that can be harmful if not properly prepared.

## Concerns and Safety

Experts caution against uninformed consumption of Amanita muscaria due to its potential toxicity and the lack of therapeutic evidence. The mushroom contains ibotenic acid and muscimol, which can cause severe neurological effects if not handled correctly.

## Legal and Market Dynamics

While legal in most states, concerns arise over misleading marketing and inadequate safety disclosures. The mushroom is often sold online and in stores with insufficient information about its risks, potentially endangering consumers.

## Call for Caution

Researchers stress the need for clear distinctions between Amanita muscaria and psilocybin mushrooms. They advocate for informed use and regulatory scrutiny to prevent adverse effects and ensure consumer safety. Public education and proper regulation are crucial to address the rising interest and mitigate potential dangers.

This emerging trend highlights the necessity for awareness and caution as Amanita muscaria mushrooms gain popularity, ensuring that public health and safety remain paramount.