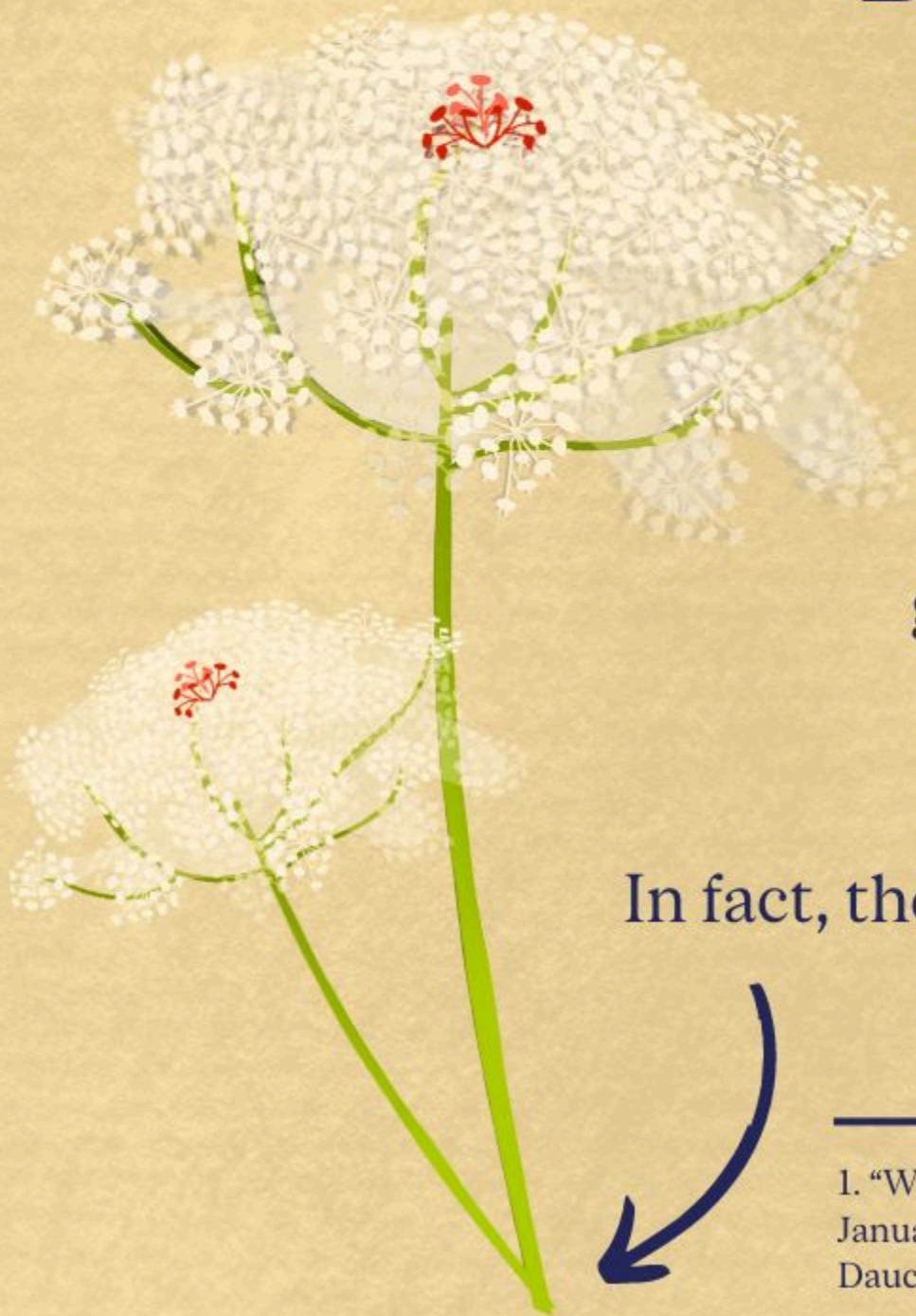


Wild Carrot

Daucus carota



This common wildflower, once brought to North America by European settlers, is the original species from which our grocery store carrots have been bred.

In fact, the roots smell like carrots.

1. "Wild Carrot (Daucus Carota)," iNaturalist, accessed January 14, 2024, <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/76610-Daucus-carota>.

Jewelweed

Impatiens capensis

This 0.9–1.5-m-tall plant with orange flowers is a remedy for short-term exposure to poison ivy, most likely due to its saponins. Juices from the leaves and stems are used in traditional Indigenous remedies for skin rashes as well as treating athlete's foot.¹

When touched, the fruit pod explodes to disperse its seeds.

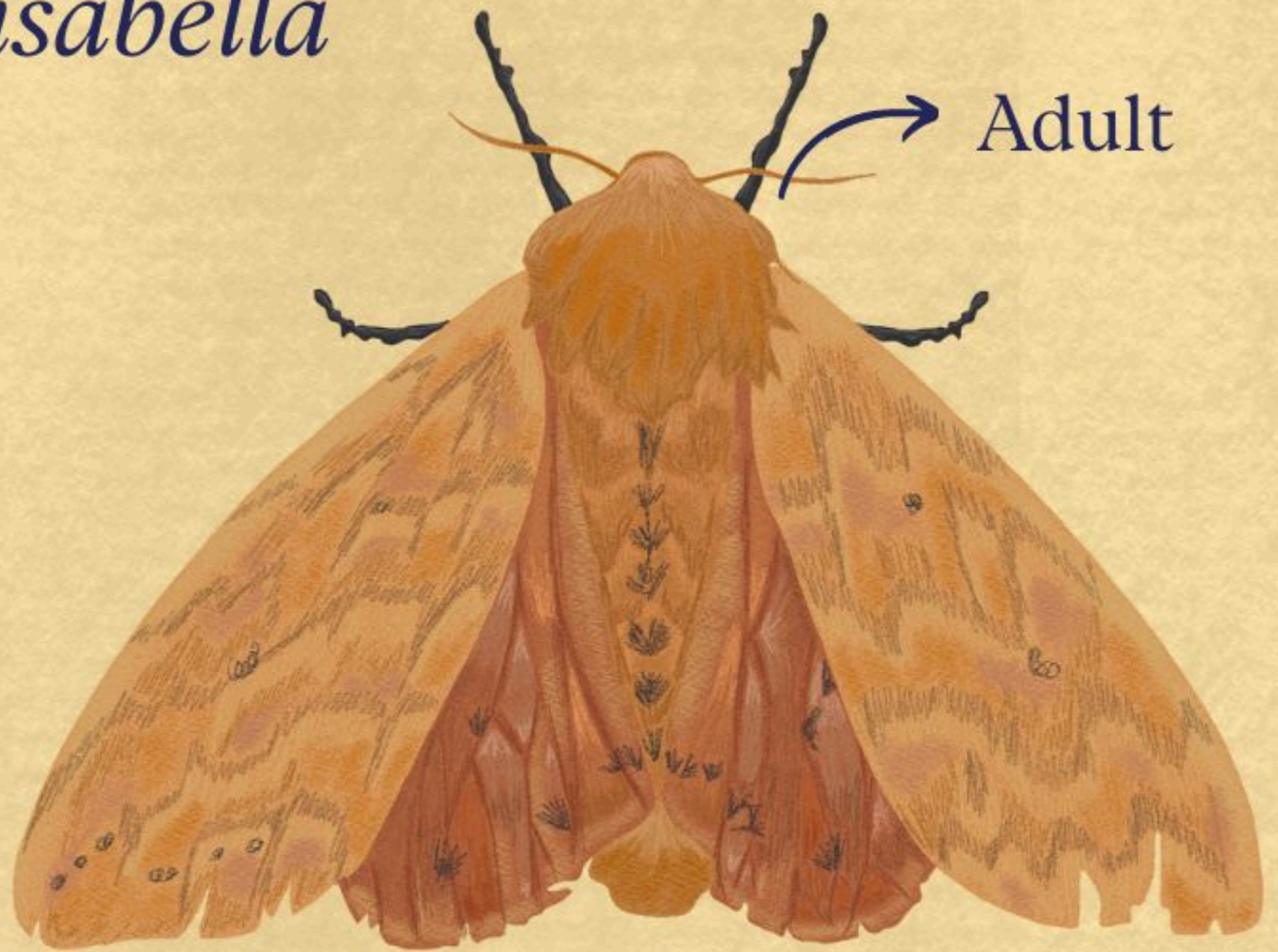


1. "Common Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)."
iNaturalist. Accessed January 15, 2024.
<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/47888-Impatiens-capensis>.

Isabella Tiger Moth

Pyrrharctia isabella

To survive or ‘skip’ the winter, this banded woolly bear larva slows down its own growth to enable survival when frozen. It does so by creating a cryoprotectant, a type of antifreeze, in its tissue.



This process begins with the moth stopping its heartbeat, followed by freezing its gut and blood and then the rest of the body.¹

1. “Isabella Tiger Moth (*Pyrrharctia isabella*),” iNaturalist, accessed January 14, 2024, <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/59675-Pyrrharctia-isabella>.

Eastern Chipmunk

Tamias striatus



Some say that chipmunks carry food in their mouths, creating the characteristic bulge in their cheeks.

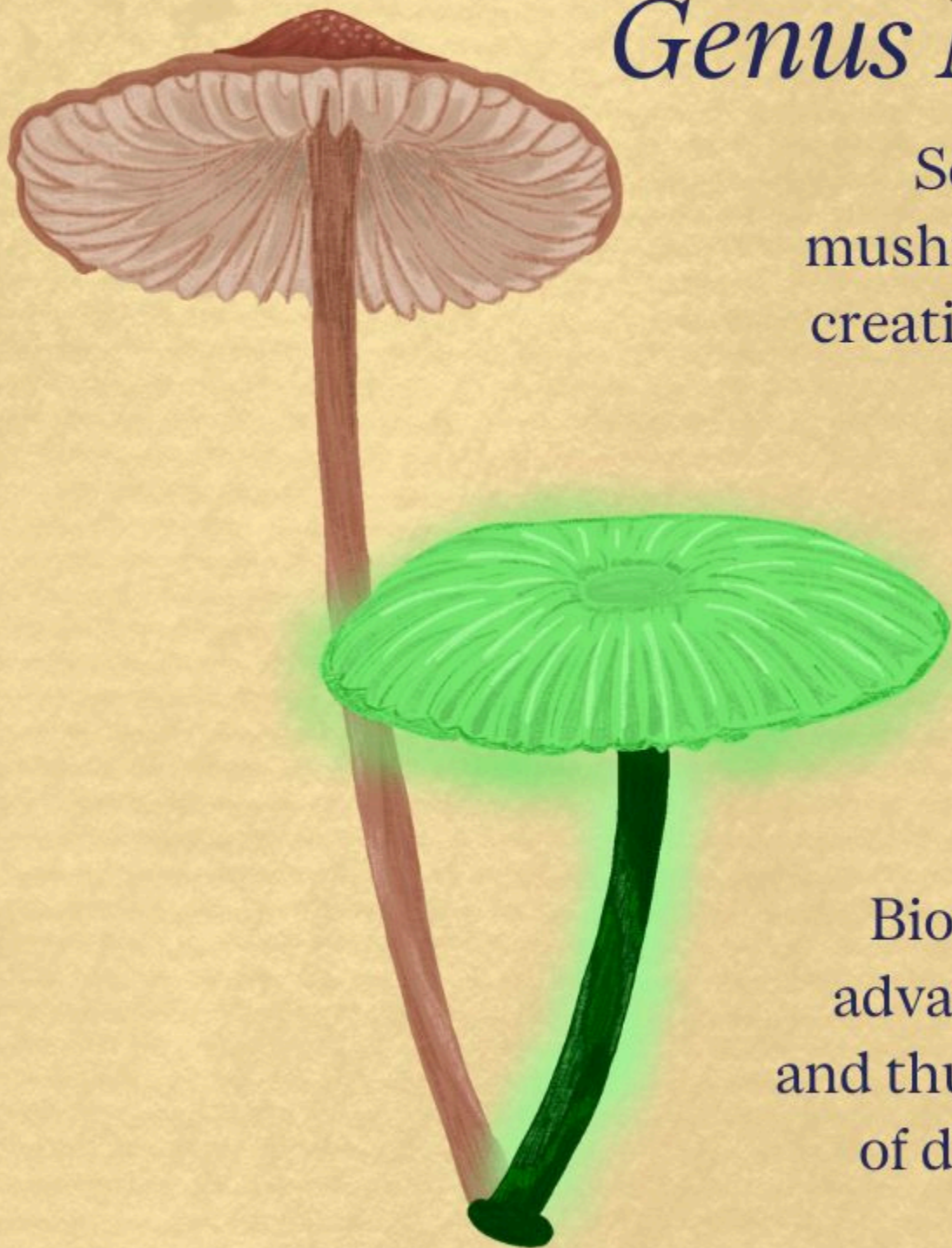
Others argue that chipmunks carry soil in their cheeks that they use to cover and hide their burrows. They also use leaves, rocks, and sticks to camouflage their homes.¹

The contents of a chipmunk's mouth remains a mystery, but they will still keep on making their burrows!

1. "Eastern Chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*)," iNaturalist, accessed January 4, 2024, <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/46217-Tamias-striatus>.

Bonnet

Genus Mycena



Some species of these small mushrooms are bioluminescent creating a glow called “foxfire”.

This happens because of the reaction between oxygen and luciferin molecules, making a mini, natural night light.

Bioluminescence presents an advantage as it attracts insects and thus increases the likelihood of dispersing the mushroom’s spores.¹

1. “Bonnet (Genus Mycena),” iNaturalist, accessed January 17, 2024, <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/55922-Mycena>.



Blue Jay

Cyanocitta cristata

A blue jay's blue colour doesn't come from pigment but from the structure of its wings, which have fine enough fragments that refract visible light (blue, in this case).

This is called
“*structural colouration*”.

If one of a blue jay's feathers were to be crushed, it would destroy the structure and make the blue colour disappear.

1. “Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*),” iNaturalist, accessed January 4, 2024, <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/8229-Cyanocitta-cristata>.