

Eastern Chipmunk

Tamias striatus



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

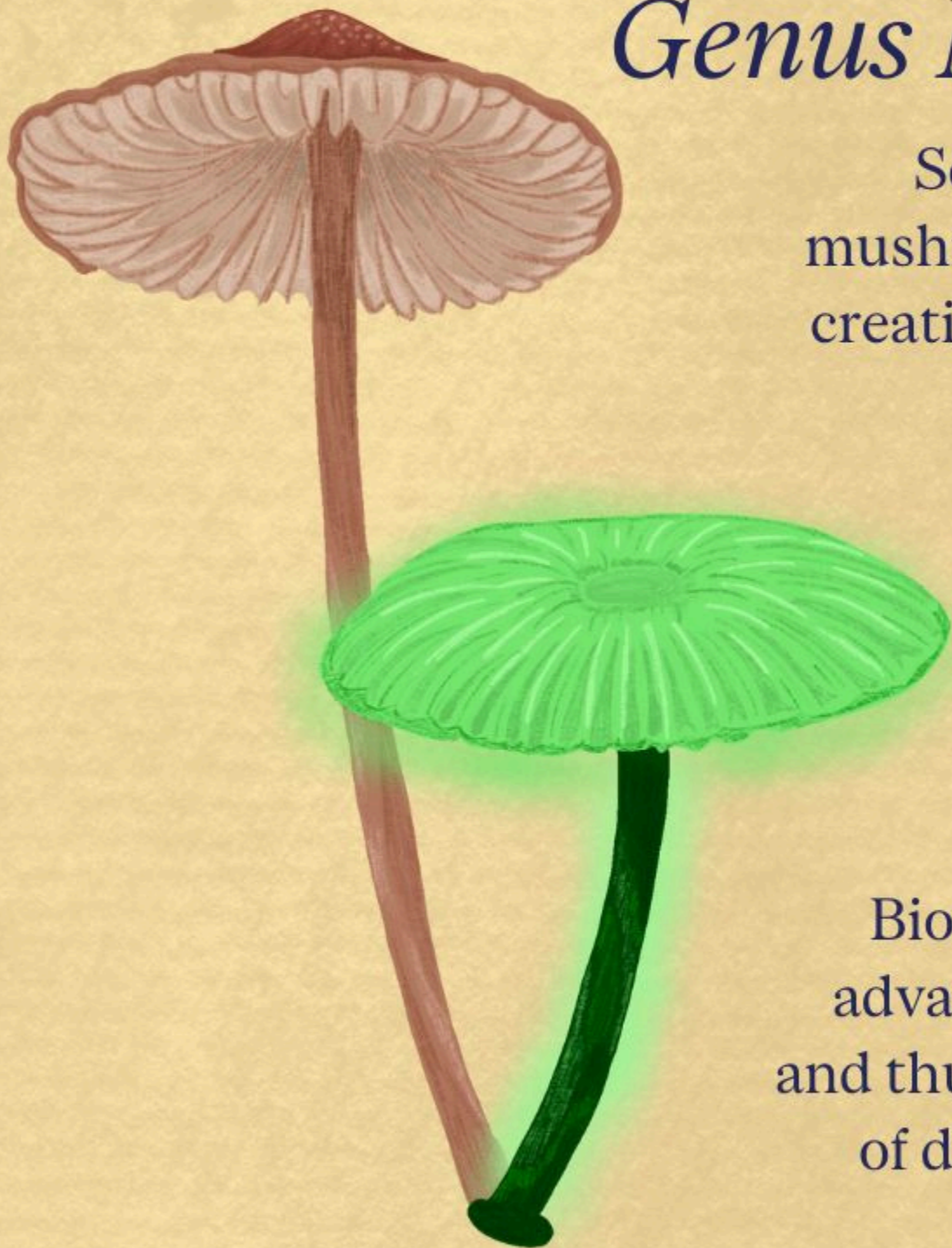
Others argue that chipmunks carry soil in their cheeks that they use to cover and hide their burrows. They also use leaves, rocks, and sticks to camouflage their homes.¹

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>.