

Beech trees engage the help of fungi to draw in nutrients to their roots from the surrounding soil. In turn the fungi benefit by receiving food from the tree. This symbiotic relationship, termed a mycorrhiza, commonly occurs in beech forests. Some of the attractive mushrooms which play their part in this relationship include the green *Russula atrovirens*, (bottom) the violet *Cortinarius* sp (middle), the red *Cortinarius* sp (right) and the orange-brown *Paxillus nothofagi* (top).

Photos: J Bedford.

