**Fungi**

**Heavenly light mushroom / *Mycena lux-coeli* / Shiinotomoshibitake / シイノトモシビタケ**

This mushroom was once thought to grow only on Hachijojima Island, off the coast of central Honshu, but it has since been found on numerous other Japanese islands. On Amami-Oshima it is most often seen growing on the rotting trunks of chinquapin oaks during the rainy season. It is a small light-brown mushroom that grows only a few centimeters high, with a little cap. It is best known for its bioluminescence, as the cap and stem glow an eerie green in the dark, earning it the nickname *mori no yosei*, or “forest fairy.” This luminosity is the result of a chemical reaction involving luciferin, a light-emitting pigment. The heavenly light mushroom is highly susceptible to dehydration, so its life spans only a few days.