

Matchmaker: Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest

Below are written descriptions and images of fruiting bodies, mushrooms, of the fungal species in this ectomycorrhizal association. The information is from the web version of the Matchmaker: Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest (MMPNW) created by the Canadian Forest Service and based on the Windows MMPNW version 1.3 by Ian and Eli Gibson.

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LATIN NAME(S) *Agaricus bitorquis* (Quelet) Saccardo Syll. Fung. 5: 998. 1887; *Agaricus rodmani* Peck; *Agaricus edulis* (Vitt.) Konrad et Maublanc

ENGLISH NAME(S) banded Agaricus, sidewalk mushroom, urban Agaricus

NOTES characterized by large size, short stout stature, white cap with ochraceous disc and kid leather surface, strongly inrolled cap margin, firm unchanging flesh, bandlike or sheathing ring, mild odor, fondness for hardpacked soil, and chocolate-brown spore deposit; found at least WA but not common, Kerrigan gives for CA, Phillips says found throughout most of North America, Breitenbach & Kranzlin give distribution as North America, Europe, North Africa, CHEMICAL REACTIONS KOH negative or very faintly yellow (Kerrigan)

CAP 4-18cm or more, broadly convex becoming flat or with slight central depression, margin inrolled when young, often extending beyond gills; "white or whitish but often dirty", "not bruising yellow but sometimes discoloring sordid yellowish to tan in old age"; dry, smooth or sometimes cracking into scales, (Arora), 5-25cm, convex with strongly inrolled margin becoming broadly convex, finally flat to uplifted; white to buff, rarely becoming faintly yellow when bruised; dry, bald or shallowly lacinate (as if cut into delicate bands, (Kerrigan), 5-10cm, convex to flat with inrolled margin; white to dull ivory; dry, smooth, (Phillips)

FLESH thick, very firm; "white, not staining when bruised (but may discolor slightly)", (Arora), thick; white to pale flesh-colored when cut, (Phillips), up to 3cm thick, firm; white, unchanging, (Kerrigan), slowly staining red-brown when cut (Kibby)

GILLS free or nearly free, close; "pallid, soon becoming grayish-pink, then deep reddish-brown to chocolate-brown, finally blackish brown", (Arora), free, close, up to 1cm broad; pallid at first, finally dark blackish-brown, without intervening pink stage; (Kerrigan), "free, crowded, very narrow; pale pink then brown", (Phillips), pallid, soon becoming grayish lavender, then dark blackish-brown, (PNW keys)

STEM 2-10(18)cm x 1-3(4)cm, "equal or slightly thicker below, but often with a narrowed or pointed base", very firm, solid; white, no scales, (Arora), 4-18cm x 1.2-3.8cm, firm, solid; white, bald above the veils, (Kerrigan), 5-10cm x 1.5-2.5cm, narrowing at base; white; with a double ring, (Phillips)

VEIL "membranous, white, thick, forming a prominent, persistent, more or less median (or even basal) ring", "ring bandlike (upper edge free or flaring and lower edge free) or sheathlike (like a volva with only the upper edge free)", (Arora), veils forming a volvate peronate sheath, more or less appressed to stem, upper limb flaring or not, sometimes with 0.1-0.3cm striate pad, lower veil boundary or limb usually not observed, in eastern North America and Europe, tends not to be volvate, (Kerrigan), double (Phillips), "two rings on stem, the upper edge free or flaring, the lower flared upward ", (PNW keys), illustration shows a bandlike ring with upper edge free and lower edge also visible, and a sheath with an upper edge below the first ring, (Kibby)

ODOR mild (Arora, Kerrigan), pleasant (Phillips)

TASTE mild (Isaacs), pleasant (Phillips), nutty (Schalkwijk-Barendsen)

EDIBILITY yes, good, (Arora)

HABITAT "solitary, scattered, or in groups or rows on road shoulders, in hard-packed soil, along sidewalks, around playgrounds, and in other disturbed areas; often fruiting underground", (Arora), "solitary to gregarious in soil where organic matter has been incorporated, or in hard-packed soils, or along roadsides and foundations etc.", (Kerrigan), "especially along roadsides, paths, in parks and towns, often in bare soil or gravel, even pushing up asphalt", (Phillips)

SPORE DEPOSIT chocolate-brown (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores 5-7 x 4-5.5 microns, broadly elliptic, smooth, (Arora), spores (4.5)5.8-6.0(8.3) x (4.1)4.5-5.1(6.0) microns, broadly elliptic, hilar appendix not prominent, germ pore not evident; basidia 19-30 x 6-7.5 microns, clavate to cylindro-clavate; cheilocystidia forming a continuous band, 19-30 x 6-7.5 microns, cylindric to cylindro-clavate, 1-septate or not, (Kerrigan), spores 5-6.5 x 4-5 microns, nearly round, (Phillips), basidia 4-spored in one collection, 4-spored or occasionally 2-spored in another, (Isaacs)

NAME ORIGIN means "with a double necklace", bis = twice (Latin), torquis = necklace (Latin)

SIMILAR like *bernardii* which has flesh that turns reddish, strong briny odor and contorted cheilocystidia, (Kerrigan); like *campestris*, but has center of cap ochraceous at maturity, lacks truly rose-colored gills, has a different ring, and has smaller spores

SOURCES Kerrigan(1), Arora*, Phillips*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Kibby*, Courtecuisse*, Hotson, Barron*, PNW keys, Isaacs (as *rodmani*), Breitenbach(4)*

FAMILY Agaricaceae of Order Agaricales