

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) *Agrocybe erebia* (Fr.) Kuehner Le Genre Galera: 31. 1935.

ENGLISH NAME(S) leather earthscale

NOTES features include dark brown to red brown umbonate cap, pallid young gills, whitish stem darkening from base upward, membranous veil that is striate on upper surface, mild odor and taste, woodland habitat, dull brown to dark brown spore deposit, large spores and 2-spored basidia; Breitenbach & Kranzlin give *Agrocybe brunneola* (Fr.) Watling as a synonym of *Agrocybe erebia* (Fr.) Kuhn., but Watling describes them separately

CAP (1.7)2.5-6cm, convex expanding only slightly with age, nearly always retaining broad umbo, margin wavy; hygrophanous, cigar brown to date brown when fresh with slight flush of purplish date, becoming clay buff or pale milky coffee on drying, slightly viscid, matt when dry, smooth or becoming wrinkled with age, margin striate with age, only sometimes with veil fragments, (Watling), 3-6cm, convex becoming flat with broad umbo; deep red-brown to umber when moist, paler dull clay-brown when dry, (Phillips); 3-6cm, convex becoming flattened with broad umbo; dark brown to reddish brown; viscid soon dry, bald, (PNW keys)

FLESH pale snuff brown throughout or darker in stem base, darkening throughout with maturity, (Watling), pale brown (Phillips), brownish (PNW keys)

GILLS uncinatate to adnate often with distinct tooth, rather distant, broad; pale clay buff or milky coffee at first then almost date brown, margin white; margin flocculose, (Watling), adnate to often decurrent; pallid then deep umber brown, (Phillips) adnate to +/- decurrent, subdistant, broad, interveined; pale brown then rust brown, (PNW keys), attached to slightly decurrent, close to subdistant, often interveined, pale brown becoming dull brown at maturity, (Bessette)



Hannah Nadel



Ben Woo

STEM 2-6cm x 0.35-0.8cm, equal or slightly swollen; whitish throughout at first, darkening to cigar brown from base upwards with age; silky fibrillose in lower part, striate in upper part, striate often joining up with gills, (Watling), 6-8cm x 0.6-1.2cm, equal, whitish, then darkening brown from base upward, (Phillips), 3-7cm x 0.3-1.0cm, equal, equal; pallid near top, dull brown lower down; fibrillose in lower part and pruinose near top, (PNW keys)

VEIL ring membranous, narrow, white, striate above, soon collapsing, (Watling), prominent when young but soon torn and easily lost, whitish with radial striations superiorly, (Phillips), membranous, well-formed, cream color, (PNW keys)

ODOR not distinctive (Watling, Phillips)

TASTE pleasant (Watling), not distinctive (Phillips)

EDIBILITY no, (Phillips), unknown and too easy to confuse with poisonous species (PNW keys)

HABITAT on soil in damp woods (Phillips), scattered to gregarious in hardwoods and conifer woods, on bare soil or in leaf litter, edges of forests, forest tracks, summer to fall, (PNW keys), in small groups on edges of woodland tracks, in shrubberies, on shady hedge banks, (Watling for Britain)

SPORE DEPOSIT dull brown (Phillips, Bessette), very dark brown (PNW keys)

MICROSCOPIC spores 9-13(15) x (5)6-7 microns, elongate elliptic in face view, slightly boletoid in side view, germ pore absent, ochraceous in water and alkali, (Watling); basidia 2-spored, cylindrical-clavate, colorless; pleurocystidia few to numerous, la

NAME ORIGIN means 'dark'

SIMILAR brunneola which has longer spores, non-striate ring, numerous persistent flecks of veil retained on cap margin even when old and prominent decurrent tooth on gills, (Watling)

SOURCES Watling, Phillips*, Courtecuisse*, McKnight*, Bessette(2)*, Barron*

FAMILY Bolbitiaceae of Order Agaricales