

## 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)** *Catathelasma imperiale* (Fr.) Singer Rev. Mycol. 5: 9. 1940

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** imperial cat

**NOTES** characterized by large size, dingy brown cap, hard flesh which is thick in relation to narrow decurrent gills, double veil, farinaceous odor, growth on the ground, and white spore deposit; known from west and east coasts of North America, Europe, and Asia

**CAP** 10-40cm, convex to flat; dark brown to brown, dingy yellow-brown, or olive-brown; slightly viscid when moist but soon dry, smooth, fibrillose-scaly, or cracked into scales or plaques

**FLESH** very thick (up to 15cm!) and hard; white

**GILLS** decurrent, close, many forked; pallid or buff to yellowish or pale grayish-olive (when old)

**STEM** 12.5-18cm x 5-7.5cm, thick, narrowing to bluntly pointed base; dingy brown to pinkish buff below the ring; dry

**VEIL** ring membranous, two-layered, lower surface often areolate (like cracked mud) while still covering gills, typically forming double ring, the upper one thick, striate above and often flaring, the lower one sheathing stem as a thin membrane or gelatinous zone

**ODOR** floury

**TASTE** floury or bitter

**EDIBILITY** yes, but tough

**HABITAT** solitary, scattered, or in groups on ground under conifers (especially spruce and fir)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** white

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 10-15 x 4-5.5 microns, cylindric, smooth, amyloid, (Arora), spores 8.1-15.1 x 4.5-6.4 microns, fusiform-elliptic (spindle-shaped - elliptic), smooth, with droplets; basidia (2-)4-spored, 40-73 x 7.5-9.5 microns, slenderly clavate, with basal clamp; cheilocystidia: marginal cells 37-70 x 2.5-3.5 microns, cylindric, some flexuous; cap cuticle of irregular, in places subparallel hyphae 2-5 microns wide, walls slightly gelatinized, brown-pigmented, septa with clamps, (Breitenbach)

**NAME ORIGIN** means 'imperial'

**SIMILAR** like *C. ventricosum* which has dingy whitish to grayish cap which is not viscid

**SOURCES** Arora\*, Phillips\*, Lincoff(2)\*, Kibby\*, Lincoff(1)\*, Courtecuisse\*, Kernaghan, Breitenbach(3)\*

**FAMILY** Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales