

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 ventricosum* (Peck) Singer

ENGLISH NAME(S) swollen-stalked cat

NOTES features include large size, dingy whitish to grayish dry cap, hard flesh, short stout white to yellow-brown stem which lies deep in the soil and which has a double ring, non-distinctive or cucumber-farinaceous odor, unpleasant taste, growth under conifers and white spore deposit; the cucumber odor is caused by trans-2-nonenal, one of the chemicals causing the odor in the cucumber vegetable (Wood); found at least WA, OR, CA, (Castellano)

CAP 7-20(38)cm, convex to broadly convex with inrolled to incurved margin; white to dirty pale gray, often with gray-brown patches when old; dry, bald, somewhat areolate (cracked like mud) when old, (Castellano)

FLESH hard, thick; white, (Phillips)

GILLS decurrent, crowded; white to pale tan, (Castellano), decurrent, close to nearly distant, narrow to broad; whitish, (Phillips)

STEM 5-15cm x 2.5-6cm, central, equal above tapered base, rooting, solid, hard; white to yellow-brown; dull, dry, bald to appressed fibrillose, (Castellano)

VEIL superior, persistent, 2-layered, membranous, somewhat elastic, ragged, white, leaving narrow ring and often an appendiculate margin, (Castellano), ring two-layered upper layer fibrillose, lower membranous, (Bessette)

ODOR not distinctive or slightly farinaceous, (Castellano), not distinctive (Bessette), cucumber-farinaceous (Wood)

TASTE mild to unpleasant-farinaceous (Castellano)

EDIBILITY good (Phillips)

HABITAT solitary, scattered, rooting in deep humus under conifers, primarily *Abies* (fir) and *Picea* (spruce), (Castellano)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Castellano)

MICROSCOPIC spores 8-12(14) x 4-4.5(5.5) microns, elliptic, smooth, amyloid; basidia (2-3-)4-spored, 34-44 x 6-8 microns, clavate; cystidia absent; clamp connections absent, (Castellano)

NAME ORIGIN means 'ventricose' (wider in the middle)

SIMILAR *Tricholoma magnivelare* has spicy odor, lacks double veil, is less tough, and has inamyloid spores; *C. imperiale* is taller, usually larger and has sticky dark cap when young, and longer spores

SOURCES Castellano(2)*, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Bessette(2)*, Barron*, Jumpponen(1), Wood(3)

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales