

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) *Clitocybe sclerotoidea* (Morse) Bigelow *Mycologia* 54: 514. (1962)1963; *Tricholoma sclerotoideum* Morse

ENGLISH NAME(S) parasitic *Clitocybe*

NOTES recognized by small size, dingy color, and habit of growing in compact clumps from a fleshy mass of tissue; Trappe has presented evidence that the sclerotoid masses are of *Helvella lacunosa* parasitized by *C. sclerotoidea*; *C. sclerotoidea* found at least WA, OR, CA

CAP 0.5-4(5)cm, convex to flat or slightly depressed centrally; pallid to dingy buff to brownish or grayish, sometimes with darker sordid buff watery spots; dry, unpolished, with a fine whitish fibrillose coating that rubs off, (Arora), 0.8-4(5)cm, convex at first, slowly expanding to flat, finally nearly funnel-shaped, margin inrolled then narrowly downcurved, finally elevated and broadly undulate (wavy), disc often somewhat umbonate but becoming flattened; not hygrophanous, densely matted fibrillose under hand lens, usually unpolished or canescent (hoary) to the eye, when old with watery buff spots, margin not striate, (Bigelow)

FLESH whitish, (Arora), thick on disc, thinning abruptly at stem then gradually to margin; whitish, in stem sordid watery buff, (Bigelow)

GILLS adnate or notched becoming decurrent; pale buff or pinkish-buff, darkening to gray, olive-gray, or grayish-brown, (Arora), adnate or sinuate at first, becoming short decurrent to moderately decurrent, usually forming a collar on stem, subdistant, moderately broad, occasionally forked and interveined; pale buff to buff at first, darkening to grayish brown; edges sometimes serrate



Michael Beug



Ben Woo

STEM 2-4(8)cm x 0.3-1.0cm, equal or thicker at either end, solid; colored as cap or paler from soft white matted hairs, arising from a tissue mass that is often partly or completely buried, (Arora), 2-4(8)cm x 0.3-1.1(1.5)cm, equal or tapering either way, central to off-center, flattened at times, solid, fleshy and fibrous; white or watery buff; with matted tomentum, often appressed then watery looking, base tomentose at times, base with large irregular sclerotium, up to 6cm x 4cm, white tomentose on outside, (Bigelow)

ODOR mild (Arora)

TASTE not distinctive

EDIBILITY unknown (Arora)

HABITAT typically in small tight clumps on ground under pine, may be parasitic on *Helvella lacunosa*, since the sclerotium is composed of hyphae from both species, (Arora), cespitose on moss and needles under pine, (Bigelow)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores 8-11 x 3-4 microns, somewhat elongated - spindle-shaped, smooth, (Arora), spores 8-10(11) x 3-4 microns, subfusoid (somewhat spindle-shaped), somewhat inequilateral in side view, smooth, inamyloid; basidia 2- or 4-spored, 17-28 x 5-7 microns; presumably pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia absent; clamp connections present

NAME ORIGIN refers to the tissue mass (sclerotium) from which it grows

SOURCES Bigelow(5), Arora*, Smith(6)

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales



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