

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) Cortinarius acutus Fr.

NOTES subgenus Telamonia; a small slender pale species which belongs to the obtusus complex, and which is reminiscent of a Galerina, characterized by pointed cap with colorless umbo, very distinctly serrulate gill edge due to large inflated sterile cells, and relatively pale colors of fruit bodies, (Brandrud); in obtusus group which also includes impolitus, obtusus, scandens, fasciatus, and pulcher: acutus distinguished by prominent sharp umbo, translucent-striate cap, and slender pallid satiny stem, (PNW keys); recorded by Smith in 1941 from WA and in 1937 from CA, and common in WA according to Stuntz in PNW keys

CAP 0.3-1.5cm, conic to bellshaped, then convex, usually with an acute and hyaline umbo; hygrophanous, light red brown to ochraceous yellowish brown, drying up radially, yellowish white when dry; fibrillose from veil when young, margin strongly translucent-striate, (Brandrud), 0.5-2.5cm, conic or conic-bellshaped with an acute umbo; hygrophanous, watery-rufous-cinnamon when moist, pale-alutaceous when dry; minutely silky, striate to the umbo, margin white-cortinate, becoming bald; (Kauffman), 0.6-2.6cm, conic at first, expanding with a prominent sharp umbo; hygrophanous, cinnamon-brown to tawny brown when moist, fading to pallid; smooth, appearing silky when dry, translucent-striate, (PNW keys)

FLESH membranaceous; yellowish, (Kauffman), very thin (PNW keys)

GILLS moderately crowded to distant; yellowish brown; edge white and serrate, (Brandrud), adnate, seceding, close or scarcely subdistant, not broad; pale-ochraceous at first, then ochraceous-cinnamon; the edge entire, (Kauffman), pale brownish or pallid when young (PNW keys)

STEM 1.5-5cm x 0.1-0.3cm, equal, slightly pointed at base, often curved, white, soon pale yellowish brown, (Brandrud), 4-8cm x 0.1-0.2cm, equal, slender, flexuous (bent both ways), tubular; yellowish at first, becoming paler; silky from evanescent white cortina, glabrescent, (Kauffman), 2.6-5.1cm x 0.3-0.5cm, equal, hollow, fragile, white or pallid becoming dull brown toward base in older specimens; bald and satiny, sometimes with slight evanescent cortinal zone, lower part of stem without any zones or patches of universal veil, (PNW keys)

VEIL white, sparse, floccose or fibrillose universal veil, (Brandrud), sometimes with slight evanescent cortinal zone, lower stem without any patches of zones of universal veil, (PNW keys)

ODOR weak, iodoform-like, more distinct on drying, (Brandrud), radish, (PNW keys)

TASTE radish (PNW keys)

HABITAT coniferous forests (Brandrud for Europe), on the ground in swampy places and mixed woods, (Kauffman for New England), conifer woods (PNW keys)

SPORE DEPOSIT presumably brownish

MICROSCOPIC spores 7-8 x 4-5 microns, elliptic to broadly elliptic, finely and densely verrucose gill edge distinctly sterile with numerous balloon-shaped sterile cells, (Brandrud), spores 7-9.5 x 5-5.5 microns, smooth, (Kauffman), no pleurocystidia, cheilocystidia polymorphic, abundant and clustered, clavate, vesicular, or fusiform, end cells, 20-55 x 10-27 microns, (Breitenbach), presumably without apical pore

NAME ORIGIN means 'pointed'

SIMILAR like obtusus but slightly slimmer smaller and paler with an acute rather than obtuse umbo (Arora); like scandens but has acute rather than obtuse umbo, like subcuspidatus but smaller and has no yellow veil patches on stem; like fasciatus which has darker colors and is unpolished when faded rather than distinctly fibrillose; like impolitus which has conspicuous white veil remnants on stem and cap which breaks into scales; like pulcher which is smaller and differently colored, (PNW keys); like Galerina species (Brandrud)

SOURCES Brandrud*, Kauffman(3), PNW keys, Smith(12), Smith(22), Arora, Courtecuisse*, Breitenbach(5)*

FAMILY Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales