

## 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 brunneus* Fr. *Epicr. Syst. Mycol.* p.298. 1838 group

**NOTES** Subgenus *Telamonia*; a common *Telamonia* in Washington, presumably the one Smith(12) has described as *C. brunneus* Fr., is close to *C. brunneus* Fr. as described by European authors; features include hygrophanous brown cap, dull brown gills with a tinge of purplish at first, which become more cinnamon brown with spores, and silky pallid stem which becomes more dull brown with age, and has a median fibrillose zone; Smith's description describes dull testaceous cap color whereas Moser gives black-brown color when fresh and longer spores, Brandrud gives for *C. brunneus* (Pers.:Fr.) Fr. var. *brunneus* dark brown to chestnut-brown cap color and spore length more like Smith's; found at least WA and probably fairly common, reported western AB

**CAP** 3-6cm, obtusely conic becoming conic-bellshaped or with obtuse umbo, with incurved margin when young; hygrophanous, dull testaceous (dull brick-colored) fading to dull tawny; moist, white-silky fibrillose along margin, (Smith), 3.5-8.5cm, conic to bellshaped, then flat-convex with a prominent broad umbo; hygrophanous dark brown to chestnut brown, paler when dry, more brownish red towards the center, grayish brown towards the margin; smooth or faintly innately fibrillose, with veil remnants along the margin when young, (Brandrud), 3-7cm, domed, +/- black brown, dry umber, gray brown, margin sometimes slightly white-fibrous, (Moser), up to 10cm, umbonate; dark chocolate brown, (Courtecuisse)

**FLESH** thick on disc, thin on remainder; dull walnut brown fading to whitish, (Smith), thick in cap center, otherwise thin; brown, dark brown when moist, darkening from the stem base, (Brandrud)

**GILLS** rather deeply adnexed and toothed, subdistant, 47-53 reach stem, 3 tiers of subgills, broad (0.6-0.8cm), deepest at base; dull brown with a tinge of purplish at first, paler and more cinnamon brown when old, (Smith), distant, broad (especially with age), with veins and anastomoses; dark violaceous brown when young, then dark brown, edge even and paler (somewhat uneven or serrulate with age), (Brandrud), distant, broad, thickish; +/- blackish brown, dry umber, gray brown, (Moser), distant, deep; dark brown, (Courtecuisse)

**STEM** 4-6(7)cm x 0.9-1.3cm, clubshaped or nearly equal, solid or becoming hollow; upper part silky pallid appearing obscurely violet brown beneath, lower part whitish from universal veil sheath which ends in a median fibrillose zone, when old stem dull brown overall, (Smith), 7.5-12cm x 0.6-1.4cm, equal to clubshaped, often irregular with age, base somewhat attenuate, fibrous; pale grayish brown, top with brown streaks, soon darkening from base and becoming almost concolorous with cap, (Brandrud), 6-12cm x 0.8-1.5(2.0)cm, +/- black-brown, dry umber, gray-brown, usually 1-2 white belts, (Moser), up to 14cm long and 3cm wide, mottled, ring white, (Courtecuisse)

**VEIL** universal veil changes from whitish to pallid dull brownish as it ages, (Smith), veil initially forming an indistinct, white or whitish, stocking-like covering, then forming a thick girdle which turns brownish with age, (Brandrud)

**ODOR** not distinctive (Smith), faint, indistinctly radishlike to earth-like, (Brandrud)

**TASTE** not distinctive (Smith)

**HABITAT** gregarious under Douglas-fir in Washington (Smith), coniferous woods (Moser), damp conifer woods, especially *Picea* (spruce), sometimes hardwoods (Courtecuisse)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** presumably a shade of brown close to cinnamon brown

**MICROSCOPIC** 7-9 x 5-6 microns, more or less broadly elliptic, slightly rough, (Smith); basidia 4-spored, pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia not seen, (Smith), spores 8-9(9.5) x 6-6.5(7) microns, elliptic to ovoid, distinctly and densely verrucose, (Brandrud), 8-12 x 5.5-7 microns (Moser), no pleurocystidia, marginal cells clavate (many septate), end cells 11-36 x 3.5-8 microns, (Breitenbach)

**NAME ORIGIN** means 'brown'

**SIMILAR** like cacao-color which has more scales on cap and different shaped spores; like bovinus which has distinctly colored universal veil in young stages, lack of testaceous tints, homogeneous cap, and large broadly elliptic spores

**SOURCES** Smith(12), Brandrud, Kernaghan, Courtecuisse\*, Moser(1), Breitenbach(5)\*

**FAMILY** Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales