

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 scandens* Fr. *Epicr. Syst. Mycol.* p.312. 1838

NOTES Subgenus *Telamonia*; member of *obtusus* group which also includes *acutus*, *impolitus*, *obtusus*, *fasciatus*, and *pulcher*; Arnold (1993) considers *obtusus* a synonym, but PNW keys differentiate from *obtusus* by noting that *scandens* has cap translucent-striate only on margin (as opposed to almost to center), non-fusiform stem (which may taper at base), edges of gills which are not white (no cheilocystidia), and smaller spores; *scandens* not as common in WA as *obtusus* or *acutus*, found by Smith in WA in 1941 and CA in 1937, reported from CO, MI, NY by Kauffman, Greater Yellowstone area, western AB, also Europe including United Kingdom, and Greenland

CAP 1-3cm, conic-bellshaped, then expanded-umbonate; hygrophanous, watery-rusty-fulvous at first when moist, soon honey-colored or alutaceous to paler when dry; bald, striatulate on margin when moist, (Kauffman), 1.0-3.2cm, convex, usually with blunt umbo; hygrophanous, tawny or rusty brown when moist, drying yellowish; bald, translucent-striate on margin when wet, (PNW keys), 1-3cm, hemispherical or with blunt umbo; +/- orange-brown, red-brown, dry yellow-brown; damp margin striate, (Moser), 1-4cm, conic then flat with an umbo; hygrophanous, watery yellow-brown when wet, pale yellowish ochre when dry; smooth, (Phillips)

FLESH thin; colored as cap, (Kauffman), yellowish (Phillips)

GILLS adnate, sometimes emarginate, close to subdistant, narrow, thin; pallid-brown then cinnamon, the edges colored as faces, (Kauffman), pallid brown becoming cinnamon; the edges the same color as faces, (PNW keys), rust-brown (Moser), adnexed; pallid yellowish buff then rusty, (Phillips)

STEM 3-8cm x 0.2-0.5cm, narrowing downward, attenuate at the slender curved base, flexuous (bent both ways), soon rigid, stuffed then hollow; fulvous when moist, pallid or white and shining when dry; scarcely fibrillose at first from remains of scanty white cortina, (Kauffman), 3.2-7.9cm x 0.3-0.5cm, equal or tapering downwards at base, rigid, hollow; yellowish-tawny when wet, pallid or white when dry; satiny-shining, (PNW keys), 6-10cm x 0.2-0.4cm, pale ochre, (Moser), 6-10cm x 0.2-0.5cm, equal; creamy colored, a little darker near base, (Phillips)

VEIL cortina scanty white (Kauffman)

ODOR none or slight (Kauffman), slight, similar to iodine (Phillips)

TASTE mild (Phillips)

EDIBILITY not edible (Phillips)

HABITAT on ground in deciduous and coniferous forests, (Kauffman), damp coniferous woods and alder bogs (Moser for Europe), under conifers (Phillips)

SPORE DEPOSIT presumably brownish

MICROSCOPIC spores 6-7.5(8) x 4-5 microns, short-elliptic, almost smooth, (Kauffman), spores 6-8 x 5 microns (Moser), (6.3)6.8-7.4(8.4) x (4.4)5.0-5.6 microns (Kernaghan), 6-7.5 x 4.25-5 microns, broadly ovate, rough, (Phillips), no pleurocystidia, marginal cells only occasional, cylindrical to clavate, end cells 15-30 x 3.5-10 microns, some septa, (Breitenbach)

NAME ORIGIN means 'climbing'

SIMILAR like obtusus but no cheilocystidia (therefore no white gill edges), smaller spores, cap translucent-striate only on the margin when wet, stem not spindle-shaped (but may taper at the base); like acutus, fasciatus, and pulcher but bluntly rather than acutely umbonate; like impolitus which has conspicuous white veil remnants on stem and cap surface that breaks into scales

SOURCES Kauffman(3), PNW keys, Arora, Kernaghan, Moser(1), Smith(22), Phillips*, Breitenbach(5)*

FAMILY Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales