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) Gymnopus confluens (Pers.:Fr.) Antonin, Halling, & Noordel. Mycotaxon 1997; Collybia confluens (Fr.) Kummer; Marasmius confluens (Pers.) Ricken

ENGLISH NAME(S) tufted Collybia

NOTES features include hygrophanous reddish-brown cap, thin flesh, crowded narrow gills, tough dark stem with whitish fine hairs, and growth on ground, often in clusters; common in Pacific Northwest and found at least BC, WA, more widely in North America, Europe, North Africa, Asia, reported from Mexico, CHEMICAL REACTIONS guaiac turns flesh of cap and gills blue green

CAP 1.0-3.5(6.5)cm, convex with inrolled margin when young, becoming broadly convex to bellshaped to flat with downcurved to upturned margin, sometimes with a low, broad umbo; hygrophanous, reddish brown when young and moist, fading to cinnamon or clay color toward the margin at first, remaining darker on disc, eventually pinkish buff overall; moist when fresh, bald or sometimes minutely appressed-fibrillose, (Halling), 2-5cm, convex to flat or slightly umbonate, margin sometimes uplifted or wavy when old but incurved at first; hygrophanous, reddish-brown to pinkish-cinnamon or flesh-colored when moist (often darker at center and pallid at margin) fading to pinkish-buff, grayish-pink or whitish as it dries; smooth, (Arora)

FLESH thin, pliant; whitish to watery buff, (Halling), thin; white, (Arora)

GILLS adnate to adnexed or nearly free, sometimes forming a slight collar round the stem top, crowded to close, narrow, 0.05-0.1cm, thin; pinkish buff to pinkish cinnamon at first, becoming cream colored with age; edges even to fringed to minutely pubescent, (Halling), adnate soon becoming adnexed or even free, crowded, narrow; whitish to flesh-colored, (Arora)

Michael Beug

Ben Woo

STEM 2.5-9(13)cm x 0.15-0.4(0.9)cm, usually equal and round, occasionally flattened and then somewhat grooved, sometimes flared at top and base, pliant and tough, becoming hollow; pale cinnamon below, paler above; dry, usually minutely pubescent at first, becoming densely pubescent to strigose hispid with age or when dried in place, sometimes nearly bald in upper part, pubescence whitish buff to pale grayish, white mycelium at base, (Halling), 3-10cm x 0.2-0.5cm, equal, hollow, sometimes flattened or grooved, pliant, tough; usually darker than cap (reddish-brown), but covered with a minute white pubescence (use hand lens), base often with a lot of white mycelium visible in duff, (Arora), top of stem widens to form a small "button" which is easily separable from the cap (Kibby)

VEIL none

ODOR mild, rarely with slight alliaceous odor, (Halling), odd, distinctive ?buggy, (Phillips), initially cyanic then garlicky, (Lincoff(1)), curious aromatic odor which is quite pleasant (Kibby)

TASTE mild (Halling), mild (Phillips)

EDIBILITY with caution: tough and similar species have not been tested, (Arora), edible but worthless (Phillips)

HABITAT gregarious but sometimes cespitose (tufted) on humus, decayed leaf litter in mixed forests, conifer forests, or hardwood forests, (Halling), gregarious, often in tufts or clusters, on ground in woods, (Arora)

SPORE DEPOSIT whitish to cream-colored (Halling), white or tinged yellow (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores 7-9.2(10.8) x 3.5-4.2(5) microns, elliptic in face view, slightly lacrymoid (tear-shaped) to elliptic or subfusoid in side view, smooth, inamyloid, acyanophilous, (Halling); basidia 4-spored, 22.4-26.6 x 5-7 microns, clavate, not siderophilous; pleurocystidia absent, cheilocystidia conspicuous, 27.5-70 x 2.8-5.6 microns, irregularly clavate cylindric, flexuous contorted to strangulate, sometimes irregularly lobed or forked; clamp connections present in all tissues, (Halling), spores 7-9 x 3-4 microns, narrowly elliptic, smooth, inamyloid, (Arora)

NAME ORIGIN 'confluens' is Latin for the place 2 streams meet, but probably refers to clustered habitat

SIMILAR dryophila and butyracea but white pubescence on stem and crowded gills, (Arora); like polyphyllus if alliaceous odor, but polyphyllus has different aspect, smaller spores, and diverticulate hyphae in the pileipellis, (Halling), subnudus has more widely spaced gills and bitter taste (Lincoff(2))

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SOURCES Halling(2), Arora(as Collybia), Phillips*(as Collybia), Lincoff(2)*(as Collybia), Lincoff(1)*(as Collybia), Schalkwijk-Barendsen*(as Collybia), Kibby*(as Collybia), Courtecuisse*(as Collybia), Bessette(2)*(as Collybia), Barron*, Guzman(2) (as Collybia), Breitenbach(3)*(as Collybia)

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales