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) Hypholoma capnoides (Fr.) Kummer ex Fries; Naematoloma capnoides (Fr.:Fr.) Karst.

ENGLISH NAME(S) conifer tuft

NOTES fieldmarks include brown moist often appendiculate cap, whitish to grayish then dingy lilaceous gray brown gills, long pallid to brownish dry stem, mild taste, clustered growth on rotting conifers, and dark spores; common in Pacific Northwest; Smith(25) examined collections from BC, WA, OR, ID, and ON, PQ, CA, MI, NY, TN, Breitenbach gives distribution as North America, Europe, Asia

CAP 2-7cm, convex or slightly umbonate to flat; "yellow to tawny, orange-brown, rusty-brown, or cinnamon, the margin often yellower"; smooth, not viscid, margin often hung with veil remnants, (Arora), 2.0-4.0(6.0)cm, obtusely conic-convex becoming convex to flat, margin incurved for a long time; "olive-yellow to maize-yellow when moist, orange-yellow in center, pale yellow to honey yellow when dry, center remaining orange-yellow", margin pale to whitish; smooth, dull, margin hung with fine white fibrillose veil remnants when young, (Breitenbach), moist but not viscid (Ammirati)

FLESH thin; pallid, (Arora), thin; light yellow, (Breitenbach), quite firm; whitish, (Ammirati)

GILLS usually adnate but often seceding, close to crowded, narrow; "at first pallid, then grayish, finally dark gray brown to purple-brown", (Arora), broadly adnate, 34-40 reaching stem, 7 subgills between each pair of gills, broad; "cream-colored when young, then gray-white with a lilac tint, olive-blackish in age", edges whitish; edge smooth, (Breitenbach)

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STEM 5-10cm x 0.3-0.8(1.0)cm, equal or tapered downward, often long in relation to cap; pallid or yellowish in upper part, often rusty-brown to tan or brownish in lower part; dry, (Arora), 2.0-7.0cm, x 0.2-0.7cm, cylindric, often curved, elastic, hollow, base usually joined with several others; "upper half light yellow with the apex whitish, lower half red-brown"; finely longitudinally fibrillose, (Breitenbach), often showing a few traces of veil (Ammirati)

VEIL fleeting or leaving small patches of tissue on cap margin and sometimes an obscure fibrillose zone on stem, (Arora)

ODOR pleasant (Phillips), pleasantly fungoid (Breitenbach)

TASTE mild, (Arora, Phillips), mild or only slightly bitter (Rinaldi), mild, fungoid, (Breitenbach)

EDIBILITY yes, but not particularly tasty, (Arora)

HABITAT gregarious, usually in clusters, on rotting conifers, (Arora), persists late in fall season (Ammirati)

SPORE DEPOSIT purple-brown to deep purple gray (Arora), violet-brown (Breitenbach)

MICROSCOPIC spores 6-7.5 x 3.5-4.5 microns, elliptic, smooth, germ pore present, (Arora); spores 6.9-8.7 x 3.9-5.2 microns, elliptic, smooth, thick-walled, with a germ pore, gray-yellow, with a reddish border; basidia 4-spored, 22-28 x 6-7 microns, cyli

NAME ORIGIN means "smoky"

SIMILAR like fasciculare but grayish immature gills and mild taste (fasciculare has green-yellow stem apex and gills, and bitter taste), and smaller spores; like sublateritium which has conspicuously brick-red cap, somewhat different gill color, distinct fibrils in the marginal zone, grows generally on hardwoods, and has smaller spores, (Breitenbach); like several Pholiotas (e.g. malicola group) which have brown or cinnamon spores

SOURCES Breitenbach(4)*, Arora*(as Naematoloma), Phillips*, Ammirati*(as Naematoloma), Courtecuisse*, Barron*, Watling(3), Smith(25) (as Naematoloma)

FAMILY Strophariaceae of Order Agaricales

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