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 fasciculare (Huds. ex Fr.) Kummer; Naematoloma fasciculare (Huds.:Fr.) Karst.

ENGLISH NAME(S) sulfur tuft

NOTES fieldmarks include yellowish to orange-brown non-viscid cap often hung with veil remnants, yellow to greenish-yellow gills, long yellowish to brownish dry stem, bitter taste, clustered growth on wood, and dark spores; common in Pacific Northwest, Smith(25) examined collections from BC, WA, OR, ID, also CA, MT, NC, TN, Breitenbach gives distribution as North America, Europe, Asia, North Africa

CAP (1)2-5(9)cm, at first broadly conical or bellshaped, soon becoming convex, then broadly umbonate to flat; "bright sulfur-yellow to greenish-yellow, or at times yellow-orange (especially when young), the center sometimes darker (orange-tan to orange-brown)"; smooth, not viscid, margin often hung with small veil remnants, (Arora), 2.0-6.0cm, convex becoming flat, margin incurved for a long time, often with a small umbo; orange-yellow to orange-brown on disc, increasingly sulphur-yellow to greenish toward margin; smooth, dull, margin sharp with yellowish veil remnants when very young, (Breitenbach)

FLESH thin; yellow, (Arora), thin; light yellow, (Breitenbach)

GILLS typically adnate but sometimes seceding, close; "at first sulfur-yellow, becoming greenish-yellow or olive, then finally dusted purple-brown to nearly black with spores", (Arora), notched, 50-55 reaching stem, 5-7 subgills between each pair of gills, broad; sulphur-yellow when young, then greenish to dingy gray-green; edges smooth, (Breitenbach)

Michael Boom (MykoWeb)

Norman Evans

STEM 5-12cm x 0.3-1.0(1.5)cm, equal or narrowing downward, firm, often curved or sinuous; "yellow to tawny, but often developing rusty or brownish stains from base upward"; dry, (Arora), 4.0-9.0 x 0.3-0.7cm, cylindric, often bent, joined with others at base, solid becoming hollow; sulphur-yellow, reddish-brown toward the base with age, with a light yellow ring zone on upper third when young; smooth, finely longitudinally fibrillose, (Breitenbach)

VEIL "thin, pale yellow, evanescent, or leaving slight vestiges on cap margin or an obscure fibrillose zone on stalk which is subsequently blackened by falling spores", (Arora)

ODOR pleasant (Phillips), polyporoid (Breitenbach)

TASTE very bitter (rarely mild), (Arora), bitter and astringent after being chewed for a time (Breitenbach)

EDIBILITY poisonous, gastrointestinal upset in North America, several deaths in Europe and Asia, (Arora)

HABITAT "gregarious, usually in tufts or dense clusters on decaying wood of both hardwoods and conifers, but sometimes growing form buried wood or roots and thus appearing terrestrial", (Arora), "clustered in hardwood and coniferous forests, on dead wood such as stumps, roots, branches, etc.", (Breitenbach)

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

MICROSCOPIC spores 6-8 x 3.5-5 microns, elliptic, smooth, with germ pore, chrysocystidia present on gill faces, (Arora); spores 5.8-7.3 x 3.5-4.3 microns, elliptic, smooth, thick-walled, with germ pore, gray-yellow; basidia 4-spored, 20-23 x 5-6 microns, +/- cylindric, with basal clamp; pleurocystidia modified as chrysocystidia, 28-45 x 7-11 microns, lageniform, with an apical protrusion, cheilocystidia 20-38 x 6-9 microns, obtusely lageniform, ventricose; some clamp connections mentioned for cap cuticle, (Breitenbach)

NAME ORIGIN means "tufted"

SIMILAR capnoides which has smoke-gray gills and mild taste, and larger spores; like sublateritium which has conspicuously brick-red cap, gills are never sulphur-green yellow, taste only slightly bitter, and generally grows on hardwoods (fasciculare on conifers or hardwoods), (Breitenbach); like dispersum var. idahoense which has a tawny to cinnamon-brown cap

SOURCES Breitenbach(4)*, Arora*(as Naematoloma), Phillips*, Ammirati*, Courtecuisse*, Bessette(2)*

FAMILY Strophariaceae of Order Agaricales

Cy and Mary Hampson

Michael Beug