

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.

[Click for further information about MMPNW](#)

Many illustrations need confirmation. Do not use this information to determine edibility.

I have read and agreed to the [disclaimer](#) and [copyright information](#).

LATIN NAME(S) *Marasmius androsaceus* (L. ex Fr.) Fr. *Epicr. Myc.* 385. 1838; *Androsaceus vulgaris* Karsten; *Marasmius melanopus* Morgan

ENGLISH NAME(S) horsehair fungus

NOTES features include small brownish cap, tough hairlike blackish stem, black rhizomorphs usually coming from base, habitat on needles, twigs or leaves, and cystidia on gill edges; found at least BC, WA, OR, ID, also AB, MB, NF, NB, NS, ON, PQ, YT, AK, CA, CO, CT, MA, ME, MI, MN, NC, NY, OH, PA, VA, VT, WY, common, also found in Europe

CAP 0.2-1.0(2.0)cm, convex to flat, the center often depressed; reddish-brown to pale brown or flesh-colored, fading when old; dry, soon radially wrinkled or striate, (Arora), 0.4-1.2cm, convex or bellshaped when young, flat-convex or flat and often shallowly depressed or umbilicate when old; dark reddish brown overall when young, disc remaining so or fading to dark brown when old, margin fading to reddish brown, grayish red, or pale grayish orange, sometimes with purplish brown tones; bald or appearing granular near margin, dull, striate or rugulose-striate, (Desjardin)

FLESH very thin, pliant, reviving when moistened, (Arora), thin; pale grayish orange, (Desjardin)

GILLS usually adnexed to adnate, well-spaced, narrow; pallid becoming flesh-colored or brownish, (Arora), adnate, close or subdistant, narrow, rarely forked, subgills in 1-3 tiers; pale orange-white when young, grayish orange or grayish brown when old, (Desjardin)



Ben Woo



Boleslaw Kuznik

STEM 2-7cm x 0-0.1cm, equal, hairlike, tough, stiff; entirely black or black with a brown to reddish-brown top, black horsehair-like rhizomorphs usually emanating from base or visible in surroundings, sometimes forms stems with no caps, (Arora), 2.0-5.5cm x 0.05-0.13cm, equal or narrowing downward, round in cross-section or flattened, insititious, bristle-like, dull or shiny, bald; top light brown or pale reddish brown when young, darkening when old, base dark brown or black; rhizomorphs abundant, bristle-like, dark brown or black, (Desjardin)

ODOR mild (Arora, Desjardin)

TASTE mild (Desjardin)

EDIBILITY unknown (Arora)

HABITAT scattered or in troops on needles, twigs, or leaves, (Arora), gregarious on senescent needles and leaves (rarely bark) of pine, *Sequoia sempervirens* (redwood), hardwoods, or rarely fern fronds, in mixed coniferous-hardwood forests, (Desjardin for California), on coniferous debris (needles, twigs, cones, bark), especially pine, also ericaceous debris (parasitic on some ericaceous plants), and occasionally plant litter of adjacent species, in mesic and boggy situations, (Redhead)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores 6-9 x 2.5-4.5 microns, elliptic or pip-shaped, smooth, inamyloid, cheilocystidia present, (Arora), spores (6)7.2-8.7 x 3.3-4.2(4.5) microns, elliptic or almond-shaped; basidia 4-spored, 19.2-27 x 6.6-9.6 microns, broadly clavate or sphaeropedunculate; pleurocystidia absent; cheilocystidia abundant, 14-30 x 6-15(18) microns, cylindrical, clavate, or irregular in outline, diverticulate, colorless or pale yellow, inamyloid, thin-walled, diverticula 1-3.5 x 0.6-2 microns, rodlike or irregular, often branched and contorted, (Desjardin)

NAME ORIGIN comes from a Greek name for an unknown marine plant according to one source or an alpine dwarf herb according to another (androsaces)

SIMILAR pallidocephalus which has a paler, more yellowish brown or grayish orange cap (though immature specimens may be indistinguishable by color), pallidocephalus is microscopically different (lacks cheilocystidia and clamp connections); like capillaris which is partial to dead leaves, has black stem and minute brownish cap with a white center; like *Marasmius androsaceus* which has a different odor, has a tomentose stem (not horsehair-like), grows on conifer needles, and develops no rhizomorphs similar in appearance to stem, (Breitenbach)

SOURCES Desjardin(1), Arora, Lincoff(1)*, Kibby*, Courtecuisse*, Redhead(6), Barron*, Breitenbach(3)

FAMILY Marasmiaceae of Order Agaricales