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) Panellus mitis (Pers. ex Fr.) Singer; Pleurotus mitis (Pers.: Fr.) Quelet

NOTES features include whitish silky-fibrillose kidney-shaped cap up to 3cm in diameter, with rubbery gelatinous layer on cap and ciliate margin, gills white to pale ochraceous cream to fairly brown, with separable gelatinous gill edge, mild taste, white spore deposit, and small cylindric spores

CAP 0.5-3.0cm, conchate to kidney-shaped, convex to flat, margin sharp; "hygrophanous, whitish with a faint pink tint when young, later light ocher to pink-brownish and whitish-pruinose in places"; dull to satiny, finely velvety when young, with fine radial wrinkles when moist, margin fringed, peelable, (Breitenbach), 0-3cm, kidney-shaped; whitish or pallid to pale pinkish-gray or weakly brownish; silky-fibrillose, margin thin and ciliate, often cap has gelatinous layer when young which is removable and elastic like rubber

FLESH elastic, tough, 2-layered, under cap skin with an olive-brown transparent gelatinous layer, below that with a watery, gray-whitish layer, (Breitenbach)

GILLS finely adnexed and surround stem in a semicircle, 25-38 reach stem, 3-7 subgills between each pair of gills, broad, some forked at stem; "white when young, later gray-pink to pink-ocherish"; edge smooth, peelable as a gelatinous thread, (Breitenbach), adnate; white to pale ochraceous cream to fairly brown; edge gelatinous, separable

STEM 0.2-0.7cm x 0.2-0.5cm, rudimentary to short, laterally attached, cylindric to conic; "with a pink or olive tint, whitish fibrillose-floccose when dry", (Breitenbach), white

VEIL none

ODOR mushroomy (Breitenbach)

TASTE mild (Breitenbach)

HABITAT usually gregarious and also imbricate (in shingled layers), more rarely solitary, on dead wood of conifers, principally Picea (spruce) and Abies (fir), such as fallen trunks or branches in brush piles, (Breitenbach for Europe), dead conifer wood especially larch

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Breitenbach)

MICROSCOPIC spores 4.5-6.5 x 1-1.3 microns, cylindric, allantoid (curved sausage-shaped), with droplets, (Breitenbach); basidia 4-spored, 15-18 x 2.5-3.5 microns, cylindric to cylindric-clavate, with basal clamp; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia not seen; cap three layered in cross-section: cap cuticle of +/- parallel gelatinized hyphae 1.5-3 microns across (peelable as membrane), strongly gelatinized intermediate layer with loosely arranged hyphae 0.5-1.0 microns across, some spiral, trama of +/- parallel hyphae 2-3 microns across, septa with clamps, (Breitenbach), 3.5-6.0 x 0.9-1.2(1.5) microns, cylindric to sausage-shaped (curved), smooth, thin-walled, amyloid

NAME ORIGIN means 'mild'

SIMILAR like Panellus longinquus var. pacificus which is up to 4cm wide, grows on conifers and hardwoods, and has larger spores (6-11.5(13.5) x 3-5.0(6) microns) but lacks prominently gelatinized gill edges; like Panellus stypticus which has non-peelable cap cuticle, is entirely viscid, grows on hardwood, and has more or less elliptic spores, (Breitenbach)

SOURCES Breitenbach(3)*, PNW keys, Courtecuisse*, Moser(1)

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales