

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) *Pholiota alnicola* (Fr.) Singer Lilloa 22: 516. 1951; *Gymnopilus alnicola* (Fr.) Murrill

ENGLISH NAME(S) alder tuft

NOTES *alnicola* is a member of the *malicola* group consisting of "scaleless but not veil-less" yellowish to rusty or tawny wood inhabitants, the true *alnicola* has yellowish or olive-tinged cap and bitterish taste; Smith & Hesler's description here is from European material; Peck reported it from NY, several reports from BC including Martin(3), Lowe, also Schalkwijk-Barendsen reported it from AB although she does not mention taste, Volk(3) reported it from AK, Martin(3) reported it also from AB, MB, ON, SK

CAP 3-6cm, convex then expanding, at times with umbo; not hygrophanous, "at first yellow at first, becoming deeper yellow or ferruginous in age, at times with a flush of olive-green toward margin, disc at times reddish yellow" (Moser); viscid, lubricous, sometimes merely moist, marginal part fibrillose-subscaly, or appendiculate (with hanging veil remnants), becoming bald, (Smith), 3-11cm, convex then flat, fleshy; bright yellow and almost transparent when wet; ochreous when dry tending to become reddish or tinged with green; mucilaginous when wet, margin initially fibrillose, (Lincoff)

FLESH thick on disc; pale yellow, (Smith), soft; colored as cap; in stem rather fibrous, (Lincoff)

GILLS adnate or slightly rounded near stem, close, broad; at first pallid or pale straw-yellow, finally ferruginous to "ochraceous-tawny", (Smith), "slightly adnate"; ochreous brown, pale then rust-colored, (Lincoff), (Schalkwijk-Barendsen says adnate-decurrent continuing as line on stem top)

STEM 4-8(12)cm x 0.4-1.2cm, flexuous, stuffed then hollow; "pale yellow above yellowish becoming brownish from the base up"; fibrillose, (Smith), 4-9cm x 0.4-1.2cm, tapering toward bottom if tufted, otherwise slightly enlarged, usually curved or supple; lemon-yellow then invariably darkening from base; fibrillose or slightly floccose, (Lincoff)

VEIL pallid or white, fleeting, (Smith), abundant, pale, fibrillose, remaining mostly adherent to cap edge, (Lincoff)

ODOR mild or fragrant to aromatic, (Smith), pleasant, with a hint of spun sugar, (Lincoff)

TASTE distinctly bitter when fresh, (Smith), bitter (Lincoff)

EDIBILITY no, too bitter (Lincoff)

HABITAT caespitose (tufted), or fasciculate (bundled), on hardwood trunks and stumps, at times on conifers, (Smith), isolated but more often clustered on dead alder stumps and trunks, also on other hardwood species in damp places, (Lincoff)

SPORE DEPOSIT rust-red (Lincoff), dark rusty brown, (Schalkwijk-Barendsen)

MICROSCOPIC spores 8-10 x 4-5.5 microns, subcymbiform (somewhat boatshaped) to ovate or more rarely elliptic, (Smith); in side view more or less inequilateral with a broad subhilar depression, smooth, inconspicuous germ pore, dark dull cinnamon in KOH, more rusty-cinnamon in Melzer's, wall about 0.3 microns thick; basidia 4-spored, 22-30 x (5)6-8 microns, obscurely utriform to clavate, yellowish in KOH and Melzer's; pleurocystidia none, cheilocystidia 22-46 x 3-6 microns, subutriform, fusoid-ventricose or clavate, wall thin smooth and colorless, content colorless in homogeneous; caulocystidia resembling cheilocystidia but typically more elongated; clamp connections present, (Smith)

NAME ORIGIN means "living on alder"

SIMILAR like *flavida* which is "very similar possibly identical but grows on conifers" (Lincoff), but in Smith(3) description lacks bitter taste; like *malicola* which lacks bitter taste

SOURCES Smith(3), Lincoff(1)*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Courtecuisse*, Volk(3), Martin(3)

FAMILY Strophariaceae of Order Agaricales