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) Pholiota destruens (Brond.) Gillet Champ. Fr. p.442. 1876; Hemipholiota populnea; Pholiota populnea (Pers.:Fr.) Kuyper & Tjall.-Beukers

ENGLISH NAME(S) destructive Pholiota, poplar Pholiota

NOTES distinctive features are pale overall color, soft whitish veil remnants (scales or patches) on cap, thick hard stem with woolly scales, grouped occurrence on poplar or willow, and brown spore deposit; found at least WA, OR, ID, Smith and Hesler examined collections from ON, CO, ID, MI, MN, NM, NY, OH, OR, SD, UT, WY, and notes reports from WA, and from NY through the central states to the Pacific, as well as Europe, Schalkwijk-Barendsen reports it from AB, Breitenbach & Kranzlin give distribution (of populnea) as North America, Europe

CAP (6)8-16(20)cm, large, convex becoming broadly convex or rarely flat or umbonate; pallid to whitish to creamy, buff, or ocher, at times darkening on disc to avellaneous, wood-brown or dark yellow-brown; covered with soft or cottony, whitish to dingy buff floccose scales or patches which may become matted or washed off when old; slightly viscid when moist, margin often shaggy from veil remnants

FLESH thick, firm; white

GILLS adnate or notched, close, broad; white becoming dull brown to deep rusty-cinnamon when old; edges even

STEM 5-12(18)cm x 1-3cm, equal or clubshaped, (2)5-7cm wide at base, central or off-center, thick, hard, solid; white but often developing brownish stains below when old; smooth and silky above the floccose-cottony fleeting ring, below the ring at first clothed with whitish to buff scales and patches from the thick white floccose veil

VEIL veil thick, floccose-cottony, white, forming a slight superior ring on stem, or disappearing

ODOR not distinctive (usually fungoid), (Smith), of malt (Lincoff(1))

TASTE slightly disagreeable but hardly distinctive, (Smith), somewhat bitter but sometimes sweetish, (Lincoff(1))

Michael Beug

Alvin Funk

EDIBILITY yes, but rather tough and poorly flavored (Arora)

HABITAT solitary or in groups or clusters on dead cottonwood and poplar or sometimes aspen or willow, especially on the cut ends of logs, (Arora), on logs and dead wood of Populus, especially cottonwood and balsam poplar, (Smith)

SPORE DEPOSIT cinnamon-brown (Arora), "cinnamon-brown" (Smith)

MICROSCOPIC spores 7-9.5 x 4-5.5 microns, elliptic, smooth, with a germ pore, chrysocystidia absent, (Arora), spores 7-9.5 x 4-5.5 microns, in face view elliptic to ovate, in side view somewhat inequilateral to elliptic, smooth, apiculus not conspicuous, apex in some obscurely truncate from distinct germ pore, wall thickened (up to 0.5 microns), near cinnamon brown as revived in KOH, paler in Melzer's; basidia mostly 4-spored, 28-35 x 5-7 microns, clavate, colorless in KOH, faintly yellow in Melzer's; pleurocystidia none, cheilocystidia 25-34(66) x 4-9 microns, cylindric, narrowly clavate, or cylindric-capitate, walls smooth, colorless and thin, content homogenous; clamp connections present

NAME ORIGIN means "destructive", which it is to the wood on which it grows

SOURCES Smith(3), Arora, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Lincoff(1)*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Courtecuisse(as Hemipholiota populnea)*, Breitenbach(4)*(as Pholiota populnea)

FAMILY Strophariaceae of Order Agaricales