

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 squarrosa* (Fr.) Kummer Der Fuhrer in die Pilzkunde p.84. 1871

ENGLISH NAME(S) scaly *Pholiota*

NOTES features include pale yellow dry cap with conspicuous erect or recurved scales, similar scales on stem below ring area, and dull rusty brown spore deposit; Smith(3) examined collections from ID, ON, CO, MI, MN, NM, NY, WY, Austria, France, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and noted reports from MA, ME, CD, PA, WI, reported by Volk(3) from AK, Breitenbach & Kranzlin give distribution as North America, Europe, Asia

CAP 3-10(15)cm, obtuse or convex becoming broadly bell-shaped to slightly umbonate or flat, margin incurved at first; pale yellow or pale tan to buff or pale yellow-brown, or sometimes greenish-yellow toward the margin, covered with a dense layer of conspicuous innate, erect, downcurved or upcurved scales, which are often darker (light to dark yellowish brown); dry, margin often fringed copiously with veil remnants, but sometimes becoming bare

FLESH moderately thick and pliant, soft, thick; pale yellowish

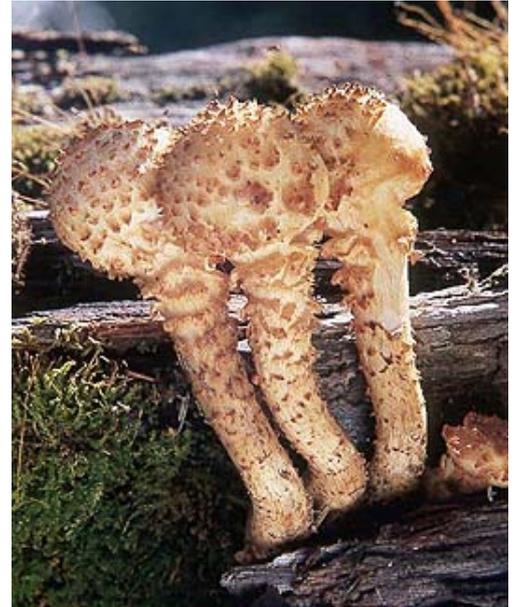
GILLS adnexed to adnate to slightly decurrent, close to crowded, narrow; pale yellowish when young, some more or less sordid greenish yellow ("Isabella color"), and finally sordid rusty brown, (Arora gives "pale yellowish to buff or tinged gray, then often developing a greenish tinge before finally becoming brown or dull rusty-brown"); edges even

STEM 4-10(12)cm x 0.4-1.2(1.5)cm, equal or narrowing downward, and at times with a long pointed base, solid; color as cap or becoming darker brown or reddish-brown below; dry, smooth above the ring zone, covered below that with yellowish brown downcurved or upcurved or erect scales below (as on cap)

VEIL membranous-fibrillose, forming a fragile, often torn, superior ring on stem or only leaving shreds on cap margin

ODOR none or garlic or onion (Smith), or lemon or radish or strawlike in others

TASTE mild or slightly rancid



Mrs J M Woollett

EDIBILITY not recommended, some get stomach upset

HABITAT in tufts or dense clusters on living conifer and hardwood trees, at the base of living or dead trees, or on logs and stumps

SPORE DEPOSIT dull rusty brown (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores (5)6-7.5(8) x 3.8-4.5 microns, elliptic to ovate in face view, obscurely inequilateral to bean-shaped in side view, smooth, germ pore distinct but apex not truncate, dull tawny in KOH and near cinnamon in Melzer's; basidia 4-spored, (16)20-25 x 5-7 microns, clavate, colorless in KOH, yellowish in Melzer's; pleurocystidia of two types 1) chrysocystidia, (26)30-48 x (6)8-16 microns, clavate to clavate-mucronate, apex papillate or drawn into a distinct projection, walls thin and smooth, refractive inclusion colorless in KOH and dextrinoid in Melzer's, 2) 30-45 x 9-14 microns, elliptic to oval-pedicellate or clavate, colorless and evenly refractive throughout in KOH, yellowish in Melzer's, cheilocystidia 18-43 x 5-15 microns, subfusoid, fusoid-ventricose, clavate or clavate-mucronate, some with highly refractive content; clamp connections present but not always abundant

NAME ORIGIN means "scurfy"

SIMILAR squarrosoides which has slime layer; limonella and other members of aurivella complex, that have viscid to slimy cap; like Armillaria species which lack the truly squarrose cap and have white spore deposit

SOURCES Smith(3), Arora*, Lincoff(2)*, Lincoff(1)*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Courtecuisse*, Bessette(2)*, Barron*, Volk(3), Breitenbach(4)*

FAMILY Strophariaceae of Order Agaricales



Michael Beug