

## 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)** *Strobilurus occidentalis* Wells & Kempton Mycologia 63: 372. 1971

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** western cone mushroom

**NOTES** features include small size, buff to brown dry cap, somewhat crowded gills, growth on spruce cones, and inamyloid spores; description derived from Redhead except where stated; reported from at least BC, WA, AB, AK, CA, CO

**CAP** 0.3-1.5cm, convex, at times somewhat umbonate, becoming flat-convex; somewhat hygrophanous to not hygrophanous, deep yellow brown to dark yellow brown or vinaceous buff, hazel or grayish sepia; dry, smooth to rugulose (finely wrinkled), margin striate with age

**FLESH** fleshy, firm; white

**GILLS** adnate to adnexed, crowded to subcrowded, moderately broad, 2 to 3 tiers of subgills; white

**STEM** 1-5cm x 0.1-0.2cm, equal, somewhat cartilaginous to horny, stuffed, becoming hollow with age, rootlike pseudorhiza usually present, up to 6cm long, covered with a dense ochreous floccose mycelium; stem white at top, cinnamon to brown below; pruinose to nearly bald

**ODOR** not distinctive (Desjardin)

**TASTE** not distinctive (Desjardin)

**HABITAT** according to Redhead, on spruce cones; according to Schalkwijk-Barendsen on old cones (sometimes buried), cone bracts, and needles of pine, spruce, and Douglas fir, leaf stems of poplar

**SPORE DEPOSIT** white

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 4-6 x 2-3 microns, elliptic to cylindrical, thin-walled, smooth, inamyloid; basidia 4-spored, 15-20 x 3-5 microns, clavate, simple-septate, pleurocystidia rare to abundant, 35-45 x 6-12 microns, obtusely ventricose to fusoid-ventricose or rarely capitate when walls excessively thickened, colorless, capped by a massive resinous and granular excretion, cheilocystidia similar, rare to abundant; pileocystidia scattered, infrequent, 20-30 x 9-10 microns, tapering above to just below a capitate top, smooth, colorless; caulocystidia abundant, similar to pileocystidia, 40-95 x 10-13 microns, sometimes somewhat conical, mostly capitate, occasionally aggregated, (Redhead(1)), no clamp connections on cap surface hyphae, (Lennox)

**NAME ORIGIN** means 'western'

**SIMILAR** like *trullisatus* which is generally on Douglas-fir cones and is buff to yellow-brown to dark brown and differs microscopically (thinner-walled pleurocystidia with apical collarettes); like *albipilatus* but has particular affinity to spruce cones and has consistently fusoid (spindle-shaped) thick-walled pleurocystidia with massive resinous incrustations; like *Baeospora myosura* which has very crowded gills and amyloid spores, as well as clamp connections and a cap cuticle composed of repent, radially oriented filamentous hyphae

**SOURCES** Redhead(1), Redhead(6), Desjardin(1), Schalkwijk-Barendsen\*, Lenno

**FAMILY** Marasmiaceae of Order Agaricales