

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) *Tricholoma apium* J.Schaeffer

NOTES features include whitish cap that often discolors greenish yellow-brown, white to yellowish gills, stem colored similarly to cap and often narrowing downwards, strong taste of celery, and small nearly round spores; description from Breitenbach is entitled "*Tricholoma cf. apium* J. Schaeff." and the remarks say that the collection differs from those described in the literature primarily by the rarity of 4-spored basidia and also by the larger spores probably because of the smaller number; *T. apium* found in BC with specimens at Pacific Forestry Center and UBC (Paul Kroeger, pers. comm.), and WA with voucher collection at University of Washington (Brandon Matheny, pers. comm.)

CAP 4-8cm, irregularly twisted, margin weakly involute (inrolled); white, then often discoloring completely yellow greenish to green brown, tomentous, (Moser), 5-13cm, convex to +/- depressed, often irregular and flexuous; whitish when young, discoloring yellowish and finally becoming dark olive brown; "margin +/- sulcate, velvety matt, smooth or cracked", (Hansen); 4-9cm, convex becoming expanded and undulating, margin incurved for a long time; whitish when young, later ocher-brownish to olive-brownish, darker toward center, paler at margin; dry, dull, finely tomentose, increasingly areolate, (Breitenbach)

FLESH white, yellowing, (Moser), hard (Hansen), thick in the center; white, dingy white when old, (Breitenbach)

GILLS white, old with yellowish gleam, (Moser), whitish to yellowish (Hansen), arcuate-adenate and sometimes subdecurrent as a small tooth, 100-160 reach stem, narrow; cream-white to yellowish-white, (Breitenbach)



Paul Kroeger

STEM whitish with fine scales, these yellowing or browning, (Moser); 3-5cm x 1.5-2cm, often short and stout; colored as cap, discoloring somewhat yellow to brown; smooth to fibrillose scaly, (Hansen), 4-6cm x 1-2cm, cylindrical to conic, narrowing toward the base, solid, firm; whitish; dry, sometimes transversely fibrillose-scaly at top, increasingly ochre-yellowish to ochre-brownish squamose toward the base, (Breitenbach)

VEIL no ring or ring zone

ODOR of celery, (Moser), strong, reminiscent of fennel, celery, or aniseed, (Hansen), strongly like celery or like *Lactarius helvus*, (Breitenbach), others say fresh baked bread or similar to *Tricholoma magnivelare*

TASTE mild, (Moser, Hansen), mild, somewhat spicy, (Breitenbach)

HABITAT especially with pines, (Moser), in oligotrophic *Pinus* forests (Hansen), solitary to gregarious, in coniferous forests under *Pinus* (pine) and *Picea* (spruce), prefers dry, sandy habitats, (Breitenbach)

SPORE DEPOSIT white according to literature (Breitenbach)

MICROSCOPIC 3.5-5 x 3-4 microns, ovoid to subglobose, (Hansen), spores 2.5-4 microns, (Moser), cuticular hyphae uniformly incrustated, (Hansen), spores 4.4-6 x 4.1-5.3 microns, nearly round, smooth, with droplets; basidia 1-2-3(4)-spored, 22-33 x 5-6.5 microns, slenderly clavate, without basal clamp; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia not seen, (Breitenbach)

NAME ORIGIN means 'of celery'

SOURCES Moser(1), Hansen, L.(2), Breitenbach(3)

FAMILY *Tricholomataceae* of Order *Agaricales*