

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 inamoenum* (Fries) Gillet Champ. Fr. 112. 1878

ENGLISH NAME(S) ill-scented *Tricholoma*, irksome cavalier

NOTES characterized by off-white to pale tan color and coal tar odor; *inamoenum* ?=*platyphyllum* according to Arora, = *platyphyllum* according to Bessette(2), but some list separately, (*platyphyllum* having more distant gills); Breitenbach et al. remark that *T. inamoenum*, "is characterized primarily but its unpleasant odor like cooking gas, its conspicuously distant lamellae, and its whitish-ocherish frbs., as well as by its occurrence in montane spruce forests" (at least in Switzerland); their description is for *T. inamoenum* (Fr.) Quelet; *inamoenum* included in PNW keys and collection noted for OR in Ammirati(11), described by Shanks as common in northern coastal forests of CA

CAP 1.5-3.0(4.5), convex to broadly convex; cream to pale tan, paler at margin; dry, bald, (Shanks), 4-6cm, hemispherical becoming convex to flat, slightly umbonate, margin acute; dingy whitish to beige, also light brownish; smooth, dull, finely appressed-tomentose, (Breitenbach), 3-6cm, convex, becoming broadly convex to nearly flat, often with low broad umbo; "pale buff to whitish, often developing grayish to brownish tints on disc"; smooth, dull, (Bessette), convex or conic to start with, then flattening, (Schalkwijk-Barendsen)

FLESH white (Shanks), firm, whitish, (Breitenbach), white (Bessette)

GILLS adnate when young, sinuate at maturity, subdistant to distant, 0.3-0.5cm broad, thin; cream to very pale tan, (Shanks), notched, distant, 33-35 reaching stem, broad; white, sometimes with a yellowish gleam; edges smooth, (Breitenbach), notched, subdistant to distant, broad, often crossveined, 3-4 tiers of subgills; white, (Bessette), adnexed, distant, broad, with veins connecting the gills or sometimes forked, many intermediates; white, (Schalkwijk-Barendsen)



Ben Woo



Michael Beug

STEM 4-8cm x 0.4-0.5cm, equal or widening downwards to swollen base, solid; pallid to cream; dry, fibrillose, (Shanks), 5-7cm x 0.8-1.0cm, ventricose-fusiform when young, later cylindric and +/- rooting, corticate, solid; white-yellowish, brownish towards base; longitudinally fibrillose, (Breitenbach), 4-9cm x 0.4-1.0cm, equal or enlarging at base which may narrow abruptly in lower part; white to cream, brownish near base; dry, pruinose at top, (Bessette), sometimes twisted, (Schalkwijk-Barendsen)

ODOR strong unpleasant odor like coal tar gas (like sulphureum), coal tar (Shanks), unpleasantly like cooking gas, (Breitenbach), pungent, disagreeable, like coal tar, (Bessette), unpleasant chemical odor (Schalkwijk-Barendsen), (Lincoff(1) says not unpleasant smell of acetylene and in another place coal gas but also says not known in North America), Watson and Largent showed that the odor is due to a mixture of benzaldehyde, 1-octen-2-ol, and phenylacetaldehyde, (Watson)

TASTE like motor oil (Shanks), mild, cabbage-like, (Breitenbach), disagreeable (Bessette), of raw meal (Schalkwijk-Barendsen)

EDIBILITY unknown (Bessette), unpalatable (Schalkwijk-Barendsen)

HABITAT solitary to gregarious with conifers, particularly Picea (spruce), (Shanks), solitary to grouped on calcareous subsoil, (Breitenbach for Europe), solitary or scattered on ground under conifers, (Bessette), "In the Pacific Northwest I found it in the mountains, but also in boreal mixed forest and aspen parkland growing in moss under spruce in boggy areas", (Schalkwijk-Barendsen)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Bessette, Schalkwijk-Barendsen)

MICROSCOPIC spores 9.6-14.4 x 5.3-7.7 microns, almond-shaped, fusoid-ventricose (spindle-shaped - wider in middle), or broadly elliptic, smooth, inamyloid, occasional spores dextrinoid, (Shanks); basidia 4-spored, 41-53 x 8.2-12 microns, clavate; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia absent, some irregular basidioles present; clamp connections present at the base of basidia, (Shanks), spores 8.6-10.6 x 5.7-7.5 microns, elliptic, smooth, with droplets; basidia 4-spored, 38-52 x 10-12 microns, pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia not seen; clamps on basidia but not seen on cap cuticles, (Breitenbach), spores 10-12 x 6.5-8 microns, elliptic, smooth, inamyloid, (Bessette)

NAME ORIGIN inamoenum means "unpleasant"

SIMILAR differs from sulphureum only in being white or pallid ivory instead of yellow, from platyphyllum in having closer gills (if in fact a separate species, note that Bessette's and perhaps other descriptions above may include the concept of platyphyllum), from bufonium by color, from sulphurescens and odorum by odor variation and consistent off-white color

SOURCES Shanks(2), Breitenbach(3)*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Courtecuisse*, McKnight*, Bessette(2)*, Ammirati(11)*, Watson(1)

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales