

## 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 sulphurescens* Bresadola; *Tricholoma impolitum* (Lasch: Fr.) Rick. sensu Rick.

**NOTES** characterized by whitish cap which develops yellow to orange yellow to ochraceous patches when touched or as it ages, and odor variously described as fruity or coconut, slightly farinaceous to cucumberlike, stinking, or unpleasant like coal tar; included in PNW keys, reported at least from BC in two locations (Paul Kroeger, pers. comm.)

**CAP** 5-9(12)cm, more or less hemispheric when young becoming convex to flat, undulating when old, margin incurved for a long time but uplifted when old; white when young, soon cream-yellow with yellow to yellow-orange patches; slightly lubricous when moist, dull, finely silky-tomentose, splitting when dry, (Breitenbach), 5-8cm, hemispheric to convex when young, becoming nearly flat, sometimes with umbo; "white at first, becoming creamy-white, staining yellow to dull yellow when bruised or in age", (Bessette), convex; white, yellowing markedly (chrome yellow, finally bright ocher-yellow, (Courtecuisse), 5-8cm, whitish-leather pale, with ochraceous spots; silky-bald, (Moser)

**FLESH** thick; white, (Breitenbach), white (Bessette), when broken turns sulphur yellowish, (Moser)

**GILLS** notched, 104-110 reach stem, narrow; white when young, later cream-colored to yellowish, spotting yellow toward the margin and where injured; edges undulating, (Breitenbach), attached or notched, close; "white to creamy white, becoming yellowish, especially near the edges in age", (Bessette), almost free; white, (Moser)

**STEM** 4-7(10) x 1.0-1.5cm, equal to slightly clubshaped and somewhat rooting, solid, firm-fleshed; white when young, later cream-yellow, spotting yellow where touched; longitudinally fibrillose, somewhat floccose toward base, base with cream-colored to yellowish mycelium, (Breitenbach), 3-10cm x 1-2cm, club-shaped when young, becoming nearly equal; "white becoming creamy white to yellow, staining yellow when bruised or in age"; dry, smooth to somewhat fibrillose, (Bessette), white, yellowing less than cap, (Courtecuisse), white, lower part foxy-punctate-scaly, base yellowish, (Moser)

**ODOR** fruity with a faint coconut component, stinking or stinking when old, slightly sulphurous, slightly farinaceous to cucumberlike and later fruity, (Breitenbach, from various authors), pungent, disagreeable, like coal tar (sometimes faint), (Bessette)

**TASTE** nutty, slightly acrid, (Breitenbach), not distinctive (Bessette)

**EDIBILITY** unknown (Bessette)

**HABITAT** usually gregarious, more rarely solitary, in hardwood forests near *Quercus*, *Fagus*, or *Betula* (oak, beech, or birch), also in parks, (Breitenbach for Switzerland), solitary, scattered or in groups on ground under hardwoods, especially oak, (Bessette), mixed woods (Moser for Europe)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** white (Breitenbach, Bessette)

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 5-6.2 x 4-5 microns, broadly elliptic to nearly round, smooth, with droplets, (Breitenbach); basidia 4-spored, 28-35 x 7-8 microns, clavate, some with basal clamp; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia not seen; cap cuticle of +/- parallel hyphae 3-8 microns wide, occasional hyphal ends exerted, only occasional septa with clamps, (Breitenbach), spores 4.5-6 x 3.5-5 microns, elliptic to nearly round, smooth, (Bessette)

**NAME ORIGIN** means 'becoming sulphury'

**SIMILAR** several other species that have coal tar odor: bufonium has reddish brown cap, inamoenum and platyphyllum have whitish cap that does not have yellowish patches, sulphureum is yellowish overall, and odorum has yellowish cap which fades to buff

**SOURCES** Breitenbach(3)\*, Bessette(2)\*, Courtecuisse\*, Moser(1)

**FAMILY** Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales