

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 vaccinum* (Fr.) Staude Die Schwamme Mitteldeutsch. 128. 1858

ENGLISH NAME(S) russet scaly *Tricholoma*, fuzztop

NOTES characterized by dry cap with reddish brown fibrils or scales on a buff background, often hollow stem, woolly veil which normally leaves hairs on cap margin, usually farinaceous odor, and association with conifers; Ovrebo examined collections for NS, ON, CO, ME, MI, MN, NY, VT, reported from WA by O'Dell(1) and found on foray lists from BC, Arora mentions for OR, CA, reported by Kernaghan from AB, Bigelow for NWT (Ft. Smith), **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** FeSO₄ grayish at stem base and olive gray on cap cuticle, KOH and PDAB no reaction, (Ovrebo)

CAP 4-7(10)cm, broadly conical to convex, becoming umbonate or flat, margin often splitting when old; "covered with dark reddish-brown to rusty-cinnamon-brown to pale pinkish-brown, tan or flesh-colored fibrils or scales on a buff background", often dark

FLESH white or pallid (Arora), whitish in cap and stem, (Shanks), 0.5-0.7cm thick, buff, often light brown below cap surface or watery gray above gills, in stem light buff, (Ovrebo)

GILLS adnate becoming notched, close; whitish or buff when young, but usually tinged flesh-color to pale cinnamon when old, sometimes also with darker stains, (Arora), adnate to deeply notched, close to subdistant; cream or pale buff at first, spotting brownish orange, and becoming orange buff overall when old, (Shanks), arcuate when young, when mature emarginate to sinuate, rarely adnate or subdecurrent, close, subgills numerous but not arranged in distinct tiers, 0.2-0.8cm broad; whitish buff, becoming very light cinnamon overall in extreme ages, discoloring yellowish brown on edge and/or in spots on face; edges entire, (Ovrebo)



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STEM 3-8cm x 0.8-1.5cm, equal or thicker at either end, usually hollow at least when old; "dry, smooth or with brownish to reddish-brown fibrils or small scales", (Arora), 3.0-8.5cm x 0.4-2.0cm, equal, occasionally clubshaped, stem hollow; dry, pruinose

VEIL woolly-fibrillose, not forming ring but usually leaving traces on cap margin, (Arora), cortinate partial veil, (Shanks), a cortina of light brown fibrils (sometimes scarcely visible even on buttons), remnants also hanging from cap at first, no traces remaining on stem, (Ovrebo)

ODOR usually farinaceous but sometimes mild, (Arora) not distinguishable, (Shanks), nondescript to farinaceous, (Ovrebo)

TASTE not distinguishable (Shanks), nondescript to farinaceous, (Ovrebo), bitter (Phillips)

EDIBILITY considered mildly poisonous by some (Arora)

HABITAT "scattered or in small tufts, groups or large troops under conifers, especially pine and spruce", (Arora), solitary to gregarious with conifers, (Shanks). gregarious or in cespitose clusters under *Pinus* (pine) and/or *Picea* (spruce), (Ovrebo)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores (4)6-7.5 x 4-5 microns, elliptic, smooth, presumably inamyloid, (Arora), spores 6.2-7.2 x 4.3-5.3 microns, elliptic; basidia 4-spored, rarely 2-spored, 28-36 x 6.2-7.2 microns, clavate; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia absent; clamp connections absent, (Shanks), spores 6.2-7.6 x 4.3-5.2 microns, (Ovrebo)

NAME ORIGIN means "of the cow" pertaining to color

SIMILAR like *imbricatum*, but with *vaccinum* scales more numerous and larger, cap brighter in color (rusty brown as opposed to darker duller brown) with ground color more evident between scales, frequently hollow stem, woolly veil which normally leaves hairs on the cap margin, and gregarious to tufted instead of solitary to scattered; like *aurantio-olivaceum* is typically smaller and has a more yellow-brown cap with a rusty orange disc and rusty orange fibrils at top of stem, (Shanks)

SOURCES Shanks(2), Arora, Ovrebo(5), Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Ammirati*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Courtecuisse*, Bessette(2)*, Barron*, O'Dell(1), Kernaghan

FAMILY *Tricholomataceae* of Order *Agaricales*