MushRumors

The Newsletter of the Northwest Mushroomers Association

Volume 21 Issue 2 March - April 2010

Northwest Mushroomers Kick Off 21st Season With Annual Survivor's Banquet

The Northwest Mushroomers Association will go boldly into its 21st year on Saturday, May 27, 2010, as we emerge from the long, dark, cold (well, maybe not so cold...) winter to celebrate ourselves at our highly anticipated Survivor's Banquet. This year we are back at the Squalicum Boat House at 5:00 pm, 4:00 pm if you wish to help with the set up. It seems that each year there are more scintillating mushroom delicacies to tantalize us and satisfy our hunger for the unique flavors that only the Fifth Kingdom can provide for us.

Blast from the past! These pictures are from banquets of the last few years. Food and fun for all.

In addition to our feast, the club will elect its officers and other board members for their one year term of service. The slate of nominees includes: Peter Trenham—President, Richard Tobias— Vice-President, Maggie Sullivan—Secretary Cris Colburn—Treasurer, Alyne Anzalone—Trustee, Richard Morrison—Trustee, Fred Rhoades—Trustee, Julie Toomey—Trustee, Doug Hooks—At-Large (Past President). You may also make nominations from the floor the night of the meeting.

In breaking with tradition, there will be no raffle of mushroom related memorabilia. If anyone in the group feels strongly that they would like to see this tradition renewed in the future, please feel free to volunteer to organize it for next years' event.

We are most fortunate to have a very unique program for the evening to be given by Dr. Jairul Rahaman, new NMA member and past president of the Snohomish County Mycological Society. She will be giving a presentation on the fungi of Guyana, a country on the northern, Carribean coast of South America.

Prepare your fungus and bring it forth for the table!

A Note From the Editor

This note is for the club membership at large. Whether or not you plan to be in attendance at the Survivor's Banquet, now is a great time, at the beginning of the season, to get yourself more involved in the great good work of the Nothwest Mushroomers Association. There are several activities that take place during the course of the year, and all of them require that people volunteer to make each of these events happen. My observation of the club for the past nearly a decade, is that nearly all of the work falls to a dozen or so people. These are generally things that are fun to do, even in the context of some tedium, and these people do not mind doing these tasks. Yet, it is not only unfair to them to have to do a disproportionate amount of the work, no one else is learning how to do these tasks, or having the opportunity to have fun doing them.

Please find it within yourselves to become more active in club activities, not only to have more of a sense of personal accomplishment, but to free up the time some long serving individuals have sacrificed, so that they can have more time to actually look for mushrooms. Thanks for your consideration! -Jack

2009 Fungal Round-Up

By Buck McAdoo

Unusual weather conditions, and perhaps other factors unknown to us, contributed to a collection of far more mushroom oddities than in average years. This is Part 1 of those observations as researched by Buck. Part 2 will air in the next issue of Mushroomors.

Instead of the usual 'Mushroom of the Month', this issue of Mushrumors features descriptions of various unusual fungi found this past fall. Some of these have long been Northwest mysteries. Others showed up here for the first time, perhaps due to global warming. I feel that since I am accorded the privilege every fall show to gather interesting species from the tables at the end of the event, that it would be helpful to share my findings with the others in our club, so we all can advance or fall together. Nonetheless, I am far from perfect microscopically. Since the newsletter now goes out online, it is my hope that others may recognize these fungi and contact us over the finds. If there are mistakes, let us know about them. This is a very humbling field. The more you know, the more you realize you don't know. There are plenty more to look at. These are just the first ones grabbed out of the dehydrator. If you happen to recognize a specimen that you found, do let us know. We will be happy to credit you with the discovery, and even better, you might remember where you found it.

Northwest Mushroomers Association Officers and Contact Information

President: Doug Hooks 360-715-0729 or doug41hooks@hotmail.com
Vice President: Linda Haynes 360 366-3432 jlhaynes@nas.com
Treasurer: Cris Colburn 360-738-3067 or crisc@ridewta.com
Secretary: Margaret Sulllivan 360-724-3158 or Maggie@fidalgo.net
Book Sales and Membership: Vince Biciunas 360-671-1559 or vbiciunas@comcast.net
Mailing Address:
NMA
P.O. Box 28581
Bellingham, WA 98228-0581

The Northwest Mushroomers Association meets on the second Thursday of the months April, May, and June and September, October, and November. *Meeting Location is NEW: CEAEE - Center for Expressive Arts and Experiential Education, 1317 Commercial Street, Suite 201, Bellingham, WA 98225.* We will inform you in advance of any changes of venue. Membership dues are $15 for individuals and families and the special price of $10 for students. Please make checks payable to NMA and forward to: Cris Colburn, membership, at the mailing address above.

Fien is our field trip coordinator. Field trips are scheduled for the Saturday after each meeting.

MushRumors is published every other month (roughly). Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of odd-numbered months. (Of course, exceptions will be made in the event of fungal finds of unusual import!)
Editor: Jack Waytz
Phone: 360-752-1270 or
gandalf5926@comcast.net
MushRumors c/o Jack Waytz
P.O. Box 28581
Bellingham, WA 98228-0581
www.northwestmushroomers.org

Lepiota naucinoides - (pg.407#3)

Cap – 7 ½ cm. wide, convex with one fold in margin. Dry, glabrous, with finely appressed flesh-tan squamules on a buff ground in a semi disorganized pattern from disc. Sordid yellowish stains turn brown in age. Context white, thick.

Gills – Free, white, very crowded. Edges entire, After bruising, they turn pale brown overnight. Three tiers of lamellullae.

Stipe – 4 ½ cm. long and 2 cm. thick. Equal, smooth, white above ring and very pale tan below. Base turns slowly yellowish ochre when bruised.

Ring – Membranous, single, white with a dark brown margin.

Odor – Mild.

Taste – Mild, sweetish, nice.

Spores – White, dextrinoid.

Habitat – At a club meeting. No one knows. Late October.

Microscopic Characters

Spores – Smooth, elliptical, thick-walled with tiny germ pore. 7.2-8.7 x 4.7-6.1 microns.

Basidia – 4-spored, clavate, 8.6-10.4 x 26-30 microns.

Gill trama – Of interwoven hyphae.

Cheilocystidia – Clavate to fusoid, hyaline in KOH, 7.3-14.3 x 32.2-54.3 microns.

Pleurocystidia – None seen.

Pileipellis – Of entangled hyphae 2.9-10 microns wide, with occasional clusters of uplifted hyphae corresponding with squamules. A squash mount revealed some catenate hyphae 5.6-6 x 35.8-45.8 microns. Context of wider, more cellular looking hyphae. Blackish in KOH.

Clamps – Not seen.

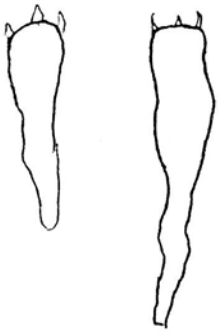
Stipitipellis – Of parallel hyphae 2.8-11.2 microns thick. Also blackish in KOH.

Caulocystidia (?) – Hyphal ends often branched or knobbed near stipe apex. These cystidial endings range from 7-17.2 microns wide.

Commentary – According to Else Vellinga this is *Leucoagaricus leucothites* sensu lato. The best description of it is in Mushrooms of Northeastern North America by Bessettes & Fischer under the name *Lepiota naucinoides*. It mentions the occasional yellow staining of cap and stem base, which is evident here. It should probably be transferred to Leucoagaricus, but there is some nomenclatural confusion in this group.

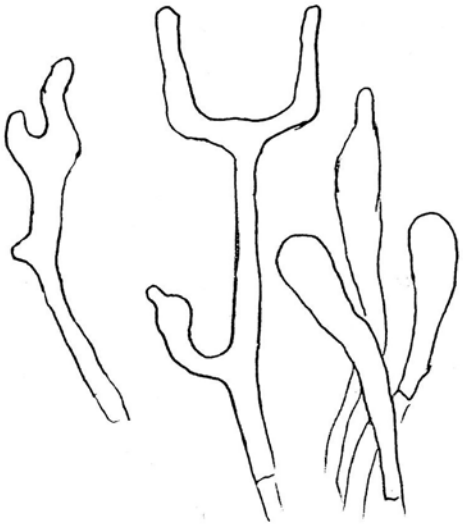
Lepiota naucinoides – (pg.407#3)

basidia

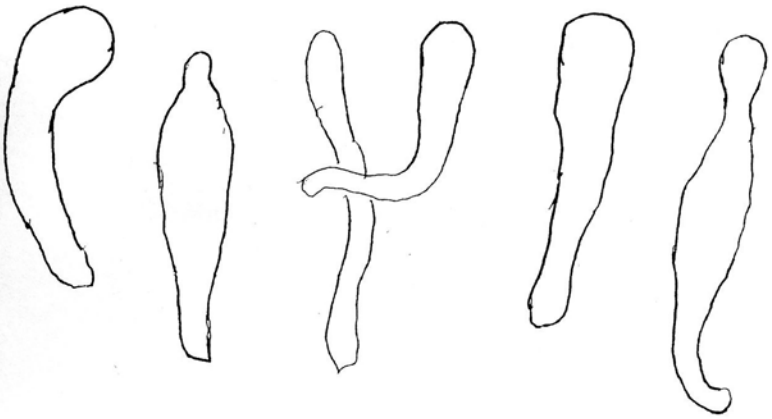


spores

cystidial ends of stipitipellis hyphae

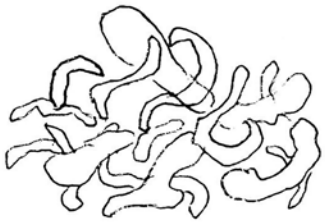


cheilocystidia

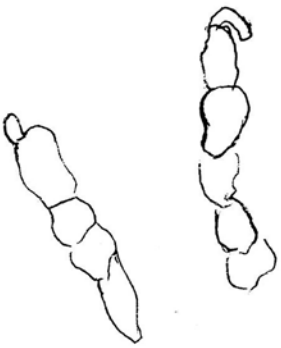


pileipellis

Squash mount of Pileipellis



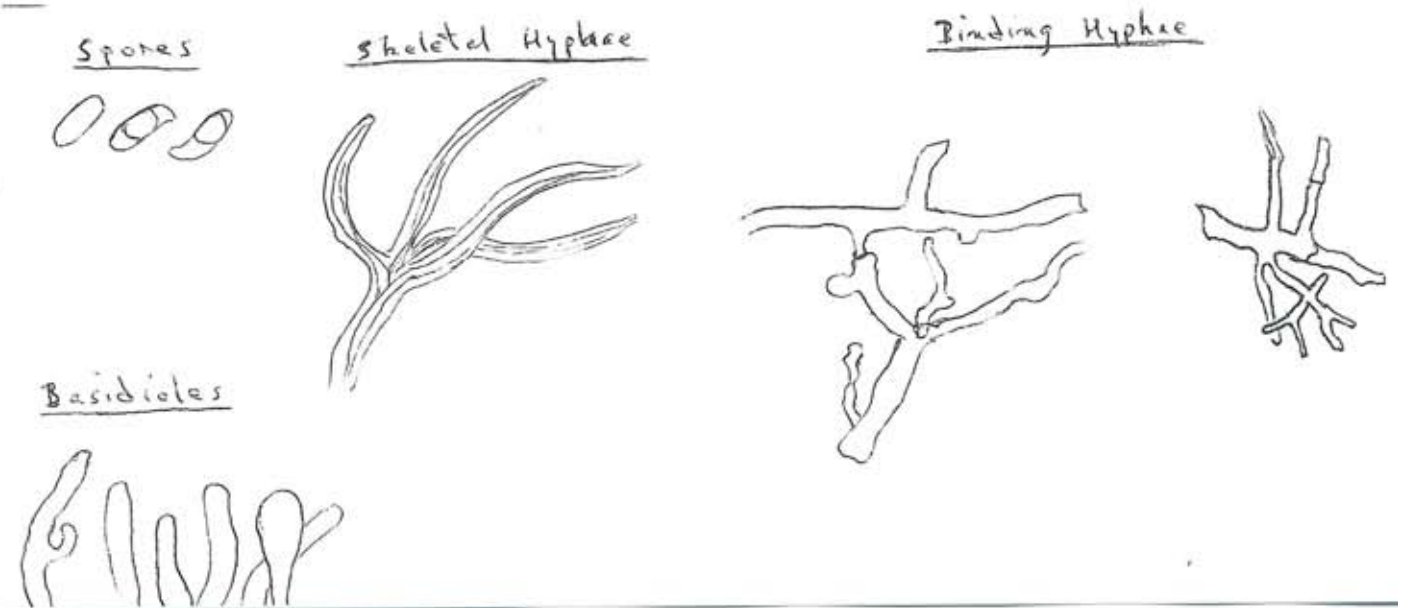
cystidial Forms in Pileipellis



Polyporus badius – (pg.396#1)
Caps – 4 ½-7 cm wide, plano-convex, sometimes with sunken discs. Dark brown at disc fading to ochre-tawny at margins. Tough and rubbery, drying bone hard. Context buff.
Pores – 8-10 per mm. Silvery white with faint lavender tinge. Decurrent. Stains ochre-brown when bruised.
Stipe – 3-4 ½ cm long and 5-9 mm thick. White becoming dark brown at base. Sometimes confluent. Not pruinose. Golden mycelium at base.
Odor – Fragrant, unappealing.
Taste – Acidulous.
Spores – White.
Habitat – On conifer wood, probably silver fir, at Schreiber's Meadow on September 9, 2009.

Microscopic Features
Spores – Cylindrical to elongated-ellipsoid. 5.7-7.2 x 2.9-3.4 microns. Often with oil drop.
Basidia – Not seen.
Basidioles – Generally clavate. 18-20 x 3.5-4.3 microns.
Context – Trimitic. Generative, skeletal, and binding hyphae in the hymenium.
Generative hyphae – 1.4-3.6 microns wide.
Binding hyphae – Plentiful, thicker than the generative hyphae, often branching at right angles.
Skeletal hyphae – 2.6-10 microns wide, usually pointy at apices.
Clamps – Not seen.

Commentary: Dr Ginns looked at this description and made the identification without needing to see specimens. In North American Polypores, spores are considerably larger and the hyphal system is described as dimitic. Jim explained that Domanski found spores the same sizes as these, and the authors are probably wrong about the hyphal system.



Russula sp. – (pg.395#20)
Caps – 10-11 cm. wide, plane or with sunken discs, glabrous, entirely mauve-brown or with olive centers. Margins slightly tuberculate striate. Cuticle peels 1/3 way to disc.
Gills – Adnate, buff, crowded.
Stipe – 7-7 ½ cm. long and 3 ½ cm. thick. White flushed with pink. Did not turn yellow when scratched.
Odor & Taste – Mild.
Spores – Pale ochre.
Habitat – Solitary to gregarious under silver fir at Schreiber's Meadow on September 9, 2009.

Micro Notes:
Spores – Subglobose, 6.6-8.6 x 8.9-11.4 microns. Ornamented with long spines with obtuse apices. No reticulations and no large suprahilar patch.
Basidia – 4-spored. Only one measured at 55.7 x 11.4 microns.
Pileocystidia – Some end pieces of cuticular hyphae are slightly swollen and have contents. They very rarely protrude above the gelatinous matrix. None appear to be ampullaceous. They measure 36-81.5 x 5.7-6.9 microns.
Pleurocystidia – Long, fusoid to subclavate forms, often with nipple at the apex, 67.2-85.8 x 10.7-12.6 microns.
Commentary – This species keys out to Russula alachuana in Grund. This looks good until you discover that Halling believes it is a synonym of Russula mariae. Arora backs this up, mentioning that R. alachuana represents the purple version of Russula mariae, normally a red-capped species. However, R. mariae always has a powdery bloom on the cap surface, not evident in these specimens. We need to see the original 1938 Murrill description to see whether a bloom is mentioned or not.

In Marcel Bon, this keys out near Russula purpurea and Russula campestris. A description of R. purpurea in British Basidiomycetes by Worthington G. Smith, depicted a species with a faintly striate cap margin, yellowish stem base, and white to yellowish gills. No microscopic features were given. Descriptions of Russula campestris can be found in Les Russules d'Europe by Romagnesi, 1985, and in A Contribution to the Norwegian Russula Flora II in Agarica 16, (37-47), 1987, by Bon & Weholt.

In Russula Roundup, this keys out near R. abietina and R. grisea, neither of them very close. This is not Russula alutacea, which has reticulate spores.

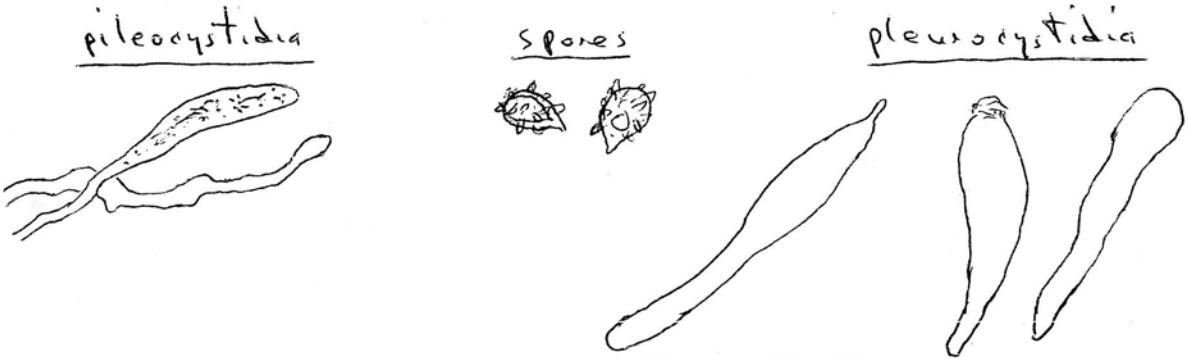
This is not Russula vinosobrunnea because that has no pileocystidia. If one determines that this also has no pileocystidia, then R. vinosobrunnea is the best choice so far.

And this is not Russula sublevispora because that has minute spines on the spores.

At this point, our own Russula expert, Christine Roberts, is in possession of part of a specimen. She has yet to herd it through Romagnesi. If that fails to produce a name, the next

Russula sp. (pg.395 #20)

step would be a search through the literature to find descriptions of Russulas that did not make it into the larger keys. This could be quite time consuming, as you can imagine.



Tricholomopsis sp. (pg.399#13)

Caps – 5-7 cm wide, convex and shallowly umbilicate. Ochraceous gray-brown with mustard yellow tinge. Margins draped or striate-lined. Glabrous except for tiny brown squamules at disc only. Context thin, mustard yellow.

Gills – Rounded-adnate, distant, deep. Mustard yellow with upper part of gill faces becoming grayish. Edges entire. Four tiers of lamellullae.

Stipe – 11-12 cm long and 7-11 mm thick. Smooth, hollow, cartilaginous. Mustard yellow becoming brighter yellow at base. Equal, some curved. No velar remnants.

Odor & Taste – Mild.

Spores – White, inamyloid.

Habitat – Cespitose cluster on rotten cedar. At Fall Show on October 18, 2009. Collector did a good job of gathering the cedar with it. Would that person please identify the location of the find!

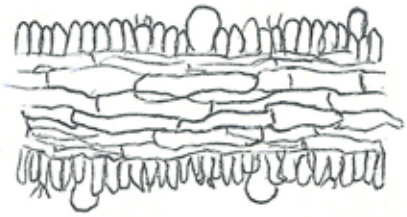
Microscopic Features

Spores – Ellipsoid to subglobose with granular contents. 4.3-5.7 x 5.3-7.3 microns. Smooth.
Basidia – Clavate to cylindrical, a few constricted at apex. 5.5-5.7 x 31.5-40 microns. 4-spored.
Cheilocystidia – Slenderly clavate, one knobbed near base. 7.6-9.1 x 40-64.4 microns.
Pleurocystidia – Same as cheilocystidia, one with short 'arm' near apex. 7.2-10 x 38.6-60 microns.
Gill trama – Of undulating, parallel hyphae 3.3-15.7 microns wide.
Hymenium – Dark ochre in KOH. (The pleurocystidia are hyaline.)
Clamps – Rare but present in gill trama and pileal context.
Pileipellis – A cutis of tightly packed hyphae .7-3.6 microns wide. Many with intracellular pigmentation.
Subpellis and context – Of parallel, more inflated hyphae, 5.4-11.2 microns wide.
Stipitipellis – Of parallel hyphae 4-11.4 microns thick.
Caulocystidia – None seen.

Commentary – This looks like another candidate for spec. nov. status. It keys out closest to *Tricholomopsis fallax* A.H.Smith, but differs in the smooth cap surface compared to virgate hairs in *T. fallax*, the

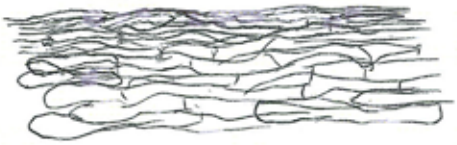
inrolled margins compared to lobed and lacerate, the tiny dark brown squamules at disc instead of a reddish hue, the presence of pleurocystidia, the yellow stem surface, and slightly smaller spores. Spores of *T. fallax* are 5-6 x 6-8.5 microns. It has only been reported from the Rockies.

Gill Trama



squash mount of Pileipellis Hyphae

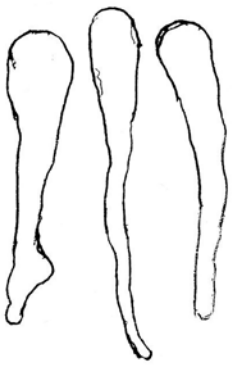
Pileipellis



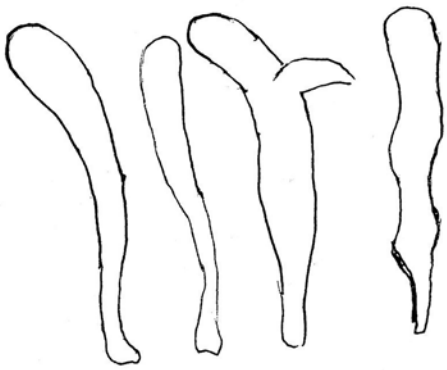
Spores

Tricholomopsis (pg. 399 #13)

Cheilocystidia



Pleurocystidia



Basidia

Lepiota sp. (pg.407#2)

Caps – 4 ½ - 5 ½ cm. wide, irregularly convex to plane with deeply inrolled margins, easily torn. Flattened tawny scales on a buff ground radiating concentrically from disc. Scales becoming more fibrillose towards margin, a few uplifted slightly at disc. Fragile, tends to crumble when handled. Context white.

Gills – Free, cream colored, crowded. Edges entire, some lacerated.

Stipe – 3-5 cm. long and 9-11 mm. thick. Dry, smooth, stuffed, tapering towards base. White at apex, then grayish below, becoming pale brown at base. Possibly bruising ochre brown overnight. Eccentric, possibly due to habitat (found under a board). Context mauve at the pellicle, white in the center.

Veil – Not seen, but a miniscule chestnut colored remnant hints that a ring was once there.

Odor – A strong *Lepiota cristata* odor.

Taste – Strong, equally peculiar. No human word for it.

Spores – White, dextrinoid.

Habitat – A pair found by Claude Dilly under a board in his garden next to dahlias. Soil is heavily composted with chicken dung. At Oak Harbor, Whidbey Island, Island County, Wash. on November 11, 2009.

Microscopic Notes

Spores – Smooth, subglobose, a bit humpy, without germ pore. 3.4-4.8 x 2.7-3.2 microns.

Basidia – Clavate, 4-spored, 4.6-6 x 16.4-20 microns, with basal clamp and long sterigmata.

Cheilocystidia – Clavate to subsaccate, hyaline in KOH, 12.9-18.6 x 4.5-6.4 microns.

Pleurocystidia – Not seen.

Clamps – Present at bases of basidia, in stipitipellis and pileipellis.

Gill trama – Of parallel hyphae.

Pigmentation – An ochre-brown wash over the pileipellis.

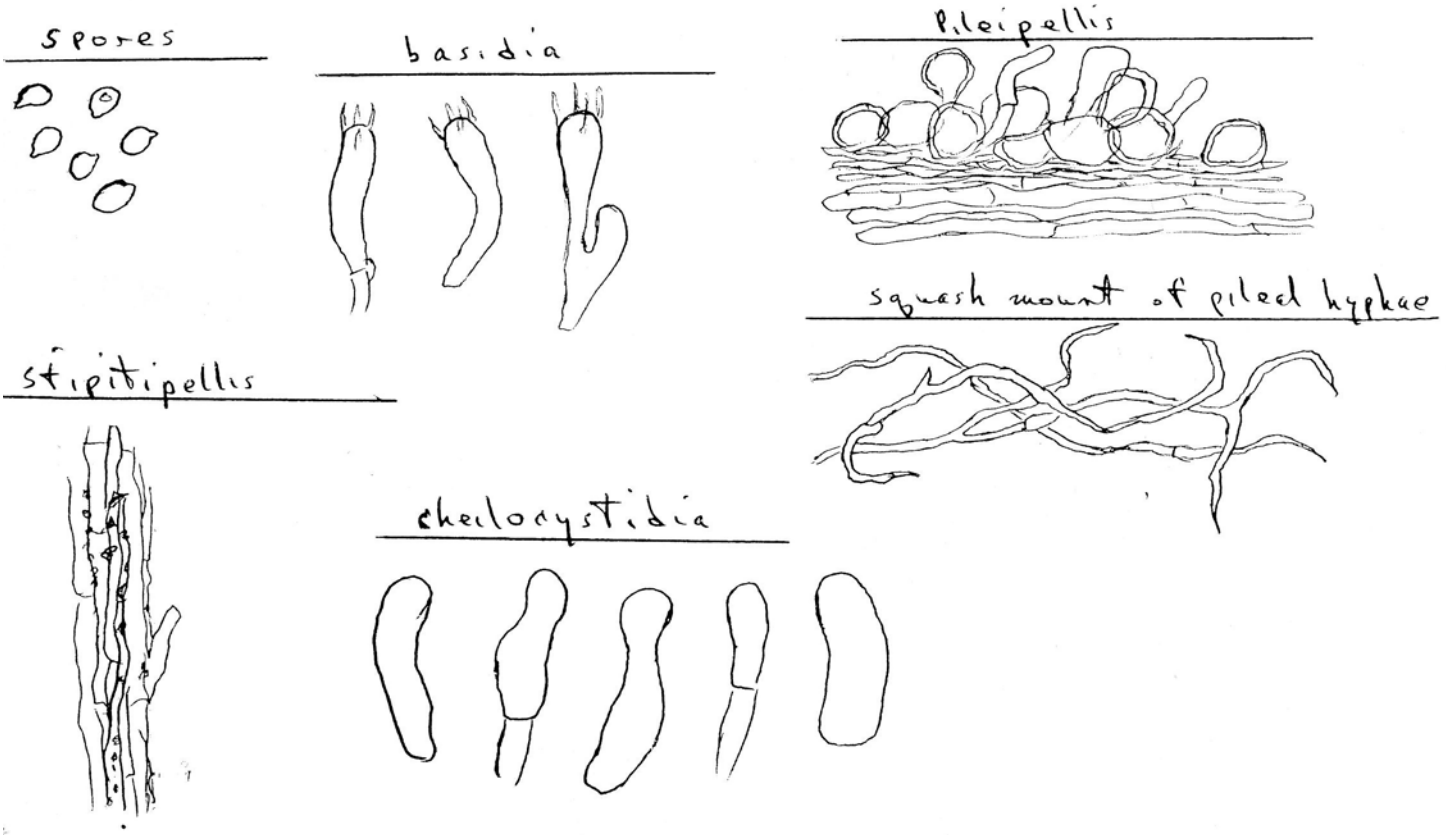
Pileipellis – Consisting of isolated clumps of thick-walled sphaerocysts emerging from thin layer of periclinal hyphae 1.1 - 4.3 microns thick. These hyphae seem partially collapsed and ribbon-like, a few branched with 'thorny' protrusions.

Pileal context – Of larger, hyaline, radially parallel hyphae 4.1-8.3 microns thick.

Stipitipellis – Of parallel hyphae 4-5.7 microns thick. Some of these encrusted with gray-black crystalized debris.

Commentary: Not sure what this is. *Lepiota langei* has the correct spores but a very different pileipellis. *Lepiota rufipes* has the right sized spores but has pointy cap scales. *Lepiota setulosa* has the correct odor, but has larger spores and pointy cap scales. It is not in our Key Council Lepiota key. *Lepiota perplexa* has slightly larger spores and a stem with wooly tomentum, and *Lepiota boertmannii* has inamyloid spores.

This Lepiota showed up at a club meeting in November. Dr. Else Vellinga is looking at it. That alone will tell you it is a species of some interest.



The Morels Are Coming! First 2010 True Morels Turning Up in Whatcom County

Morels with Cream...

About 15 fresh morels, rinsed well and cut in half lengthwise
1 large shallot, peeled and minced
1 clove garlic, peeled and minced
2 tbsp. olive oil
2 tbsp. unsalted butter
1/2 cup chicken stock
Truffle salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
3/4 cup heavy cream

Heat heavy pan over medium heat. Add olive oil, then shallots and garlic and saute briefly. Add butter and heat until melted. Add the morels, stirring and cooking until they begin to brown and release their moisture (about 5 minutes). Add chicken stock and cook for about 3 minutes. Stir. Add cream and continue heating on low until reduced and thickened slightly.

Serve over pasta (I used fresh linguine) or perhaps sauteed or poached chicken breasts.

Serves 4
Courtesy of Claire Walter - Claire is a a Colorado-based, award-winning travel, food and sports writer who was just bitten by the blogging bug late in 2006. You can check out her Blog called Colorado Culinary

Cream of Morel Soup

A heavenly soup that will make you want to get back to the woods and feed some more black flies.
Ingredients:

3/4 LB fresh morels (more or less to taste and your hunting success) chopped
1 large leek (use everything below the green leaves)
3 medium to small russet potatoes
1 cup chicken stock
1 cup heavy cream
1/2 cup dry white wine
2 TBS butter or mild vegetable oil
salt and pepper to taste
2 cups water

Live and in the flesh, Sosio's Produce at the Pike Place Market in Seattle. These are from Northern California

1) Chop off dark green leek leaves and roots. Slice the stem lengthwise and rinse under cold water making sure to remove all grit trapped between layers. Peel and halve potatoes. Add both to soup pot with the water. Boil moderately until quite tender. 20-30 min.

2) Heat medium pan over a medium flame. Add butter , morels and a few dashes of salt. Cook morels gently for ~ 15 minutes, making sure they do not dry out. Add a few dashes of wine at a time to keep moist. When nearly done add wine, turn up flame and continue cooking until liquid is almost gone. Add chicken stock and stir until blended.

3) When potatoes and leeks are tender, remove from heat and blend until smooth. Return to pot.

4) Add morel mix to potato/leek mixture and simmer very gently, stirring occasionally to avoid scorching. After about 5-10 minutes, add cream and salt and pepper to taste.

Courtesy of David H - located in Petoskey, Michigan

*Both of these recipes are furnished through the web site: www.thegreatmorel.com

2010 Calendar of Notable Mycological Events

Morel Madness May 7th - 9th, 2010

Our annual spring outing is held in the fragrant pine woods of Tall Timbers Ranch just north of Lake Wenatchee. A campsite nestled in a valley surrounded on three sides by mountains and bordered on two sides by rivers. You newcomers my not be aware of this outing designed to forage for the elusive morel with time to rub elbows with others enjoying the same hobby. Some years morels are abundant and at other times they are scarcely visible. It all depends on the weather. Years with low snow pack tend to be the best on Mothers Day weekend and this is one of them, but there are no guarantees. We'll have fun in any event.

The prices are reasonable. One night $23.00 per person. Two nights $46 per person. Reserve early and be assured of a place. We must confirm the number of people by April 23. There will be no refunds after that date. Please pay by Pay Pal, or check or money order made out to NMA and send to Margaret Dilly, registrar: 1350 N. Balda Rd, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

If you have any questions, please contact me at (360) 675-8756 or email thedillys@msn.com

Teluride Mushroom Festival August 26th - 29th, 2010
This is the 30th anniversary of this wonderful event. Would anyone care to team up and take advantage of this world-famous myco-adventure? Perhaps a group of audacious Northwest Mushroomers would like to organize and head east. There is a nice overview of the festival at www.danielwinkler.com.

Northwest Mushroomers Association Monthy Meetings

April 8th, 2010 Snowbank Mushrooms and Western Spring Basidiomycetes (NAMA Presentation)

May 13th, 2010 to be determined

June 10th, 2010 New Taxonomy for the Mushroom World Speaker: Dr. Fred Rhoades

September 9th, 2010 Mushroom Cookery Speaker: Jack Waytz Details on location to be announmced

October 14th, 2010 to be determined

November 11th, 2010 to be determined

*We are trying to engage Bryce Kendrick and possibly Taylor Lockwood for one or both of the fall meeting slots.

Northwest Mushroomers Association Fall Exhibit October 17th, 2010

Snohomish County Mycological Society Fall Exhibit October 10th, 2010

Puget Sound Mycological Society Fall Exhibit October 16th - 17th, 2010

Vancouver Mycological Society Fall Exhibit dates unknown at time of publication