

Sparassis crispa Wulfen:Fries

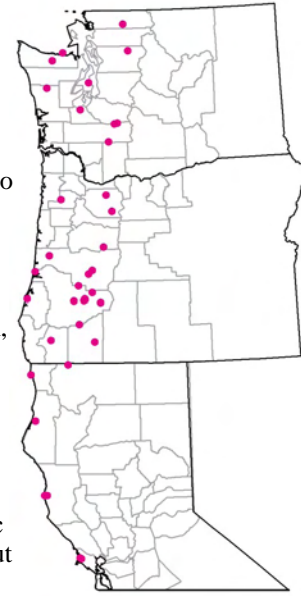
ROD name *Sparassis crispa*

Family Sparassidaceae

Morphological Habit cauliflower

Description: **SPOROCARPS** annual, arising from a perennial, elongated, hypogeous pseudosclerotium as a rounded mass of many anastomosing and subdivided, horizontal to vertical petaloid branches with thin, wavy margins, 100-300 mm in diam. x 100-200 mm tall, cream yellow to yellow-brown overall, base darker brown. **PSEUDOSCLEROTIUM** a mass of soil and humus held together by white mycelium, 200-700 x 50-100 mm, attached to roots of living or dead conifers, rarely lacking a pseudosclerotium and then attached to dead wood. **ODOR** strong, somewhat disagreeable or like smoked bacon. **BASIDIA** 40-60 x 4-8 μ m, clavate, 4 spored. **CYSTIDIA** absent. **CLAMP CONNECTIONS** present. **SPORES** ellipsoid, 5-7 x 3-5 μ m, smooth, hyaline, inamyloid, spore print white.

Distinguishing Features: Because of its large size, conspicuous morphology and esculent properties, *Sparassis crispa* is a well-known species and one that has been illustrated in nearly every North American field guide published to date. Many of these reports list the species as *S. radicata*. It is encountered nearly every season in the Pacific Northwest but usually is represented by a single sporocarp; the species is widespread but locally rare. *Sparassis crispa* is characterized by the large cauliflowerlike sporocarps with clustered, flattened, curly, cream to yellow-brown, erect branches arising from a long, buried "stem." It is the only species of *Sparassis* that occurs in the Pacific Northwest.



Distribution: Widespread in North America and Europe. **CALIFORNIA**, **Del Norte Co.**, Crescent City; **Humboldt Co.**, Wallace Appleton Property, Bayside; **Marin Co.**, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Inverness; Tomales Bay State Park; **Mendocino Co.**, Jackson State Forest (JSF), Aleuria Glen; JSF, Jug Handle Creek Farm; **Siskiyou Co.**, Rogue River National Forest, Red Buttes Wilderness, trail 954; **OREGON**, **Clackamas Co.**, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Cascades Resource Area, north fork of Eagle Creek; Mount Hood National Forest; **Coos Co.**, Coos Bay, south of Coos Bay; **Douglas Co.**, Umpqua National Forest (UNF), 1.6 km southeast of Cougar Bluffs; UNF, Lookout Mountain; UNF, near Emile Shelter; UNF, 0.8 km southwest of Reynolds Butte; BLM, 1.6 km west of Burnt Mountain; UNF, 2.4 km northwest of Dog Prairie; BLM, near Jim Creek; UNF, Threehorn Mountain; Lake Tahkenitch; **Jackson Co.**, BLM, Butte Falls, 1.2 km southwest of Buck Point; **Josephine Co.**, Siskiyou National Forest, Big Pine campground; **Lane Co.**, UNF, 4.8 km southeast of June Mountain; Siuslaw National Forest, Indian Creek; Willamette National Forest (WNF), Lookout Point Reservoir; **Linn Co.**, WNF, H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, 2.4 km northeast of Quentin Knob; **Yamhill Co.**, BLM, Tillamook Resource Area, 0.8 km north of Stoney Mountain; **WASHINGTON**, **Clallam Co.**, Olympic National Park (ONP), Elwa drainage, near Boulder Creek; ONP, Olympic Hot Springs; **Grays Harbor Co.**, Olympic National Forest, Lake Quinault; **Kitsap Co.**, Bremerton; **Lewis Co.**, Quartz Creek, Big Tree area; **Pierce Co.**, Mount Rainier National Park (MRNP), Longmire; MRNP, Lower Tahoma Creek; **Snohomish Co.**, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBSNF), 3.2 km southwest of White Chuck Mountain; **Thurston Co.**, Olympia; **Whatcom Co.**, MBSNF, Noisy Creek trail near Baker Lake.

Substrate and Habitat: Solitary, typically within 2 m of the base of a living coniferous tree (*Pseudotsuga*, *Pinus*).

Season: Autumn.

References: Breitenbach, J.; Kränzlin, F. 1986. Fungi of Switzerland. Lucerne, Switzerland: Mycological Society of Lucerne. 412 p. Vol. 2. Miller, O.K., Jr. 1972. Mushrooms of North America. New York: E. P. Dutton and Co. 360 p.

