

Coprinus Pers.

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Frb whitish, soon with black, deliquescent gills. Cap cylindrical to ellipsoid or ovoid, later bell-shaped to expanded with upturned margin, scaly, dry, white with buff yellow centre, deliquescent. Gills free, crowded to very crowded. Stem ± cylindrical or widened downwards, with a basal bulb, dry, whitish. Veil forming a loose, narrow ring on the lower part of the stem. Smell indistinct. Taste indistinct. Sp deposit black.

Sp ellipsoid to ovoid or amygdaloid, with central to slightly eccentric germ pore, smooth, at first pink, but soon dark reddish brown to black. Basidia 4-spored. Cheilocystidia ellipsoid to ovoid, oblong, utriform or subcylindrical. Pleurocystidia absent. Pileipellis a cutis to a trichoderm. Clamps absent, but clamp-like structures sometimes present.

Saprotrophic. On soil or dung. Early summer to autumn.

2 species in the Nordic countries.

Molecular studies (Hopple & Vilgalys 1999) have shown that the genus belongs to the *Agaricaceae*, whereas most of the former species in the genus now are placed in *Coprinellus*, *Coprinopsis* and *Parasola* in *Psathyrellaceae*.

Lit.: Orton & Watling 1979.



Spores: *Coprinus comatus*.

1. On soil; sp 10-13 × 6.5-8 μm (fig. 533C). Cap 40-150 × 20-70 mm, at first narrowly ovoid to cylindrical, later bell-shaped, smooth at centre, outwards fibrillose and breaking up into scales, white, tinged buff at centre; gills very crowded, first white, then pink and finally black and deliquescent; stem 50-300 × 10-25 mm, widened downwards, with a basal bulb, smooth, white, with a loose, narrow ring. Sp ellipsoid to amygdaloid, with central to slightly eccentric germ pore. In open land, often in lawns, stubble-fields and other fertilized areas, less often in forests, often in large groups; summer to autumn; very common in temp.-bore., occasional in suba.-arc./alp.; DK (LC), FI (LC), IS, NO (LC), SE (LC). – B&K 4:270, C&D 772, Däh 542-543, Phil 257de, Ves 290, ⊙. – Edible.
C. comatus (O.F. Müll.: Fr.) Pers.
- On dung and rotting plant debris; sp 16-23 × 11-14 μm. Cap 20-60 × 15-30 mm, narrowly ovoid, later bell-shaped to expanded with upturned margin, scaly, white with yellowish buff centre; gills crowded, strongly deliquescent; stem 60-150 × 3-10 mm, widened downwards, with a basal bulb, smooth, white, upper part turning brown, with a loose, narrow ring. Sp ellipsoid to ovoid, with a slightly eccentric germ pore. Rare in temp.-bore.; DK (DD), FI (LC), NO (LC), SE (LC). – Bon 271, FAD 157F, Lud 93.3, MHK 4:293, ⊙.
C. sterquilinus (Fr.: Fr.) Fr.