

AGARICUS SILVICOLA, A NEW RECORD FROM PAKISTAN

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Abstract

Agaricus silvicola is being reported for the first time from Gilgit valley, Pakistan. This edible species is characterized by the production of scales on fruiting body. Spores are 6-8x4-5 μ m, ellipsoid and smooth.

During the study on Macrofungi of Gilgit valley, Pakistan in summer 2005, the specimens were collected from Dashkin, District Astore Gilgit, (alt 2578m, N=35 °40, E=74 °50), growing on the fallen leaves of plants. On the basis of microscopic examination, it was identified as *Agaricus silvicola* (Fig. 1) after reference to Sultan Ahmad (1997), Demoulin & Marriot (1981), Buczacki (1989) and Surcek (1988).

Cap 6-8 cm wide, first convex then expanded with white fibrous scales. Gills greyish pink when young, then grey-brown and become chocolate brown with age. Stipe 8-10cm long, 1-2cm thick, cylindrical, bulbous at the base and rings are attached with stipe. Edible, pleasant taste and reminiscent smell. Flesh yellowish. Spores 6-8x4-5 μ m, ellipsoid, smooth, brown.

A. silvicola differs from *A. abruptibulbus* in having a thin-fleshed, cream-white cap. Flesh of *A. abruptibulbus* turn brown to black with age, and the spores are smaller (5-6x3-4 μ m). *A. macrocarpus* has a stipe only slightly thickened at the base, and a fleshy cap up to 15cm wide. It appears to be a new record not lither to reported for Pakistan.

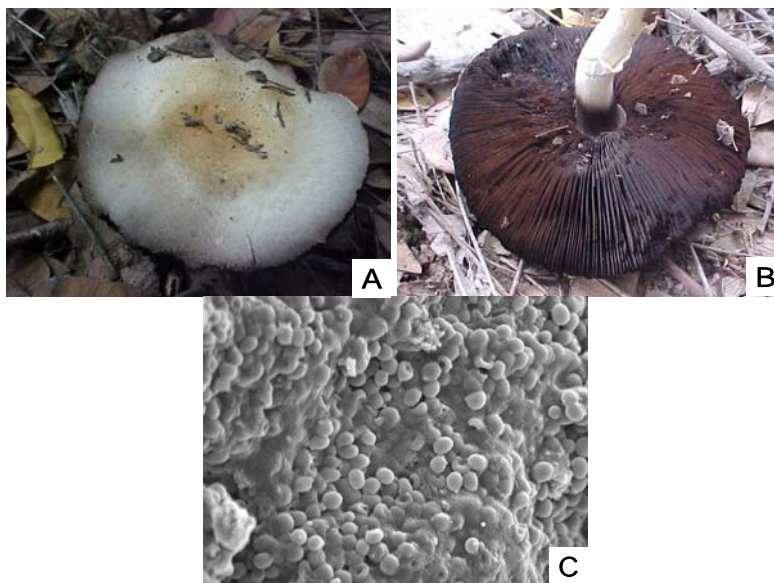


Fig 1. A and B fruiting body of *Agaricus silvicola*. A= Uper surface, B= Gills, C= Basidiospore.

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