

Notes on the identification of fungi

Trametes

In these notes I have tried to bring information into one place which might be scattered. They are based mostly on the literature rather than personal experience and should be used in conjunction with field guides etc where available.

I would very much welcome comments, correction and additional information so that the notes can be updated.

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Notes on the identification of *Trametes* brackets

Six species are listed in the Checklist:

Species		No. sites in Norfolk (approx.)	Illustration in Fungi of Switzerland	Illustration in Sterry & Hughes
<i>T. gibbosa</i>	Lumpy Bracket	26	2:284	262
<i>T. hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bracket	10	2:286	262
<i>T. ochracea</i> = <i>T. multicolor</i>		2	2:286	262
<i>T. pubescens</i>		2	2:286	262
<i>T. suaveolens</i>	Fragrant Bracket	0	2:288	
<i>T. versicolor</i>	Turkeytail	181	2:288	262

One other species is confusable with *Trametes*:

Trametopsis (Trametes) cervina. Conspecific with *Anrodia pseudosinuosa* (see Field Mycology 2018 19(4) pp.116-118 – no clear identification features offered and very variable. Not known from Norfolk

Distinctive species: Species with **non-hairy upper surface**; mostly larger

- *Trametes gibbosa* LUMPY BRACKET: large; lumpy; white; hairless. Common
- *Trametes suaveolens* FRAGRANT BRACKET: can be large; odour of aniseed; brown zoned; large spores (9-12 x 4-4.5). Rare (not Norfolk)

	Colour	Width (cm)	Spore size (µm)	Smell	Substrate
<i>T. gibbosa</i>	whitish	5 - 20	4-5 x 2-2.5	not distinctive	various, often beech
<i>T. suaveolens</i>	creamy-buff	3 - 14	8-12 x 4-4.5	aniseed	usually willow, poplar

Smaller, ± zoned species: (but all can reach 8cm diameter)

- *Trametes hirsuta* HAIRY BRACKET
- *Trametes ochracea* (= *T. multicolor*) OCHRE BRACKET
- *Trametes pubescens*
- *Trametes versicolor* TURKEYTAIL

Descriptions refer to young/fresh specimens. More difficult when dry and old. In general become greyer with age. Many adjectives describe hairiness and different authors may use them differently. Tomentose: matted, soft hairs. Line under tomentum best seen in section cut with sharp blade.

	Colour and zoning	Colour pores	Hairs* on upper surface	Line under tomentum	Spore size
<i>T. hirsuta</i>	Cream, ochre, brown, becoming grey, zonate often with yellowish-brown margin	grey (with age)	Alternating coarsely hairy and tomentose zones. Margin tomentose.	Black line (?separating two layers of context – Ryvarden)	6-9 x 2-2.5
<i>T. ochracea</i>	Zones of hazel-brown, buff and reddish brown; becoming greyish; decurrent onto substrate.	white to tan	Finely tomentose to almost hairless	Orange-brownish	6-8 x 2-2.5
<i>T. pubescens</i>	Pale cream, often white; not zoned. Thin-fleshed.	white to tan	Tomentose to finely pubescent	None	5-7 x 1.5-2
<i>T. versicolor</i>	Markedly zoned with blue-grey, brown, reddish-brown and paler	white to tan	Hirsute to tomentose	Prominent, black	5-6 x 1.5-2

* Hairs longest when young.

Information from a variety of sources including Ryvarden & Gilbertson, Sterry & Hughes; Breitenbach & Kranzlin and Buczacki