

Learning in the Leaves

Identification- *Daedaleopsis confragosa* (Bolton) J. Schröt. - Blushing Bracket



Distinguishing Features

- The Cap is Usually kidney shaped, these slow-growing brackets are 5 to 20cm across and 1 to 4cm thick at maturity, but occasionally they form attractive horizontal rosettes, as seen here (left) on a fallen silver birch trunk. Blackened old fruitbodies can sometimes persist for several years.
- The reddish brown warts can, in some instances, completely cover the upper surface, although more often they are restricted to a central area leaving an attractive concentrically zoned outer region that is free of warts.
- The tubes and pores are White at first, becoming beige and ageing to grey, the underside bruises pinkish-brown when handled (as shown on the left).
- Most of the pores are closed slits, but some form maze-like patterns and, near to the attachment, some are circular or nearly so..

Interesting Facts

- Commonly referred to as the Blushing Bracket, because there are often shades of pink or mauve in the upper surface, *Daedaleopsis confragosa* is a tough, slow-growing fungus.
- Often these distinctive brackets can be seen on riverside willows in midwinter, a time when very few other large basidiomycete fungi are in evidence. The bright brackets catch any sunlight and stand out starkly from the dark background of the branches or trunks to which they are attached.
- [information collated from the First Nature Website: www.first-nature.com]