

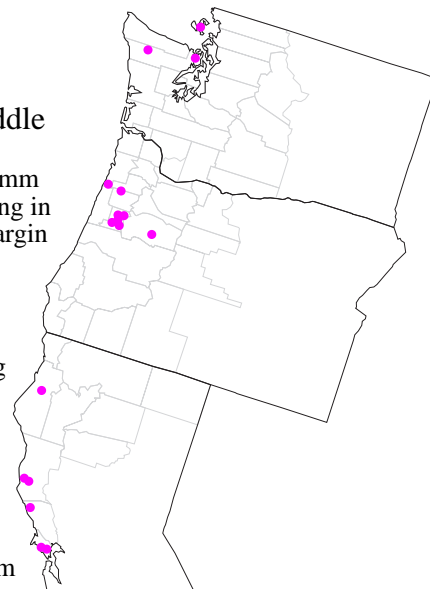
Helvella maculata N.S. WeberROD name *Helvella maculata*

Family Helvellaceae

Morphological Habit Elfin Saddle

Description: SPOROCARPS stipitate, apotheciate, at maturity (15-) 50-155 mm tall. APOTHECIA when young with margin obscuring the hymenium, expanding in age and then 2 (-3) lobed and slightly wrinkled over the apex of the stalk, margin straight to flaring. HYMENIAL SURFACE gray-brown, obscurely mottled. ABHYMENIAL SURFACE cream colored at first then yellow, in age with gray to gray-brown areas, densely villose at all ages. STEM 15-125 x 2-3.5 mm at maturity, strongly ribbed with ribs not continuing on abhymenial surface of apothecium, lacunose, nearly white to very pale buff when young developing gray-brown patches in age. ASCI operculate, inamyloid, 8-spored. SPORES ellipsoid, 20-23.5 x 12-14 (-15) μm , smooth.

Distinguishing Features: Characterized by a stipitate, apotheciate sporocarp, the margins of the apothecium curve over and obscure the hymenial surface when young, the hymenial surface is gray-brown, abhymenial surface is cream at first, then yellow and densely villose, the stem is strongly ribbed. *Helvella crispa* (Scop. : Fr.) Fr. differs in being ivory to pale buff overall and not developing gray-brown discolorations; it also has slightly smaller spores, 17-21 (-24) x 10-13 (-14) μm . *Helvella compressa* differs in having a stem that is round and smaller spores.



Distribution: Known from 17 sites within the range of the northern spotted owl: **CALIFORNIA**, Humboldt Co., Larabee Butte; Marin Co., Alpine Lake; Audobon Canyon Ranch, Galloway Canyon; Mount Tamalpias; Mendocino Co., Dimmick Memorial Grove State Park; Navarro River area, Masonite forest campground; Sonoma Co., Stewart Point Rd.; **OREGON**, Benton Co., Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Salem District, Bellfountain Rd.; BLM, Salem District, east of Reese Creek; Corvallis, Peavy Arboretum; Corvallis, Beechwood Place; Beldon Creek; Linn Co., Cascadia State Park; Tillamook Co., Siuslaw National Forest, Cascade Head Experimental Forest; Siuslaw National Forest, along Rd. 858 2 km from junction of Rd. 858 and Bible Creek Rd.; Yamhill Co., 5.8 km west of Willamina; **WASHINGTON**, San Juan Co., Friday Harbor Biological Station; Jefferson Co., Chimacum; Olympic National Park, Twin Creeks Natural Area. Also widespread across the North Temperate zone.

Substrate and habitat: Found scattered to gregarious at low to mid elevation under mixed conifers or hardwoods. This taxon is not restricted to old growth.

Season: Fruits from September through April.

Reference: WEBER, N.S. 1975. Notes on western species of *Helvella*. I. Beih. Nova Hedwigia 51:25-38.



Photo courtesy of M.A. Castellano