

## *Agaricus stevensii* Kerrigan sp. nov.

Holotype: Specimen "Stevens 06-02-09." Yuba Pass, Sierra Co., California, USA, 2 Jun. 2009. Leg. F. Stevens, deposited in SFSU herbarium.  
MB 802560

### AFFINITIES

Section *Minores*.

### NOTABLE FEATURES

Small size, stocky stature; pallid, yellowish or grayish-brown cap surface staining yellow-orange; band-like ring; slightly bulbous stem (pronouncedly so when dried); scattered, clumped cheilocystidia; sandy soil at higher elevations in western mountains.

### DESCRIPTION (from my notes and those of Fred Stevens)

PILEUS 25–38 mm diam., sometimes covered with fine sand and then appearing dingy, grayish or drab-brownish, broadly convex (–truncate), becoming subplane and undulating to slightly uplifted and radially partly fissured; pileipellis whitish on disc, or cream-colored overall, becoming yellow, or yellowish-orangish to tawny brown in places, slowly yellowing somewhat when scratched, drying a rich gold color, formed of radially oriented hyphae, glabrous, sometimes lustrous; context 3–5 mm thick, white, soft, unchanging when exposed, odor faint, almond-like. Lamellae free, close, to 4 mm broad, pale gray becoming bright pinkish-gray, then dingy vinaceous brown, finally dark blackish brown, not or only slightly marginate (paler). STIPE equal to (even abruptly) bulbous, 1–3 cm long × 8–10 mm above, 10–15 mm at bulb; surface minutely fibrillose, silky above, white, becoming tawny; interior stuffed-hollow, the pithy cavity 2–4 mm broad, context white, lustrous, unchanging, base moderately deeply rooted in fine sandy soil. VEILS forming a very scant, ephemeral, band-like to membranous, median to suprabasal, essentially intermediate annulus, white except the lower margin (ca. 1 mm thick) dingy brown, veils also sometimes leaving a few white remnants on the lower stipe.

SPORES dark brown at maturity, ellipsoid, (4.5–5.6–) 6.0–6.2 (–6.4–7.9) × (4.1–) 4.3–4.6 (–4.9)  $\mu\text{m}$ , mean = 6.1 × 4.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , L/W = 1.36 (N=90, C=3); hilar appendix not or semi-prominent; apical pore not evident. BASIDIA 1-, 2-, or (mostly) 4-spored, clavate, 19.5–28 (–32) × 6–8.5 (–10)  $\mu\text{m}$ . CHEILOCYSTIDIA uncommon, clumped, basidiole-like, semi-clavate, 19–23 × 6.5–8  $\mu\text{m}$ , not always observed, the lamellar margin partly fertile.

### CHEMISTRY

KOH yellow.

### HABIT, HABITAT, DISTRIBUTION

Gregarious in montane coniferous forest at about 1300–1650 m elev. Sierra and Amador Cos., California; also reported from Yosemite National Park, Mariposa Co., California (E. Vellinga, pers. comm.). After spring snowmelt (May–June).

### ETYMOLOGY

The epithet honors Dr. Fred Stevens for his contributions to our knowledge of the Fungi of California, and for his generous and supportive friendship and enabling impact upon my studies.

### DISCUSSION

*Agaricus stevensii* was collected in a few places in the montane mixed coniferous forest across Highway 49 from Bassetts Station, near Yuba Pass, California, by Harry Thiers in June of 1983. The description presented here was prepared from those specimens, and from recent ones by Fred Stevens. The species is familiar to others who collect in this area, but can be confused



*A. stevensii*: collection “Stevens 06/02/09” [SFSU; Type]. Leg. F. Stevens, Sierra Co., California.  $\times\sim 1.7$ . Photo © and courtesy of Mike Wood.



RWK 1245 [SFSU]. Leg. H. D. Thiers, Sierra Co., California.  $\times\sim 0.85$ .

with other taxa (*A. moronii*; compare also collection RWK 1237 [SFSU]), which is larger, usually whiter, and has a flaring annulus and more abundant cheilocystidia.

The small *A. stevensii* is one of the larger-spored members of section *Minores*; its position was confirmed via ITS DNA sequencing. It is also known from PiPi Valley (Leg. D. Viess [SFSU]) and Yosemite (E. Vellinga pers. comm.).

#### EDIBILITY

Unknown