

Basidiomata extremely variable in form, size and color, generally subspherical and convex with a constricted base, often with lobate margins, sometimes flattened or with a concave central part, rarely effuse and covering larger areas around the branches of the the host; surface smooth, rarely tuberculate, cartilaginous, pale pinkish, reddish brown, dark brown or black, 0.2-2.5 mm diam.; context hyphae 2-3 μ m wide, mostly uniform, the walls not markedly thickened, clamps absent; haustorial branches frequent, mother cell subspherical or sometimes elongate, 2.5-4.5 μ m diam., haustorial filament 0.5-1 μ m thick, 3-7 μ m long. Hymenium hyaline, sometimes reddish brown in upper part and then yellow in 5% KOH; thickness variable, containing numerous probasidia. Basidia, when mature, clavate to subcylindrical, with 1-3-transverse septa, 20-44 x 3-6.5 μ m; epibasidia 2-3 μ m thick, to 85 μ m long. Basidiospores subglobose to ellipsoid, with a distinct apiculus, 4.5-8 x 4-7.5 μ m. Anamorph hyphomycetous, often present, forming long branching chains of hyaline, ellipsoid, simple conidia, 3-5 x 2-3.5 μ m. On Usnea spp. **Forming pale pinkish to brownish convex galls ("carpoids") 0.5-2 mm wide on tips of branches of caespitose and pendulous Usnea spp. Heterobasidiomycete. Arizona, California. B. usnearum Räsänen (see Diederich & Christiansen, 1993)**