



America Academy of Clinical Toxicology

Herbs and Dietary Supplements Special Interest Group

Case Wire.....

August 15, 2006

Dear Colleagues,

A special request from our colleagues at China -Shanghai Poison Center ...

Your help is needed to identify this mushroom (inset), native to the forests of Yunnan Province, China. This mushroom may have caused several sudden deaths in a family. According to our information, some victims may have died within minutes. Please forward your input and questions to:

Dr. Alan Woolf Alan.Woolf@childrens.harvard.edu

Elaine Kang-Yum ekangyum@winthrop.org



Thank you for your participation!

AACT- Herbs and Dietary Supplements Special Interest (HDS SIG) Team

Just for the written record. I can't say with any accuracy if the mushroom in the image is toxic or not. However, with some reasonable accuracy, I would say that the fungus belongs to the family Tricholomataceae (in the broad sense). With less accuracy I would hazard a guess that it may belong to the genus *Trogia*. If that is indeed the correct genus, I can say that very little is known of the toxicology of this genus.

Roy E. Halling - Vice President, Mycological Society of America ,Institute of Systematic Botany The New York Botanical Garden email: rhalling@nybg.org

Revisions in Boletaceae<<http://www.nybg.org/bsci/res/hall/boletes>>

I'm thinking of Angel's Wing, *Pleurocybella porrigens*, which does grow in the Yunnan province and consumed in miso tea. Here is an article (in German) <<pleurocybella.pdf>> which has a nice picture of the mushroom and a discussion of the Japanese poisoning cases, which says onset is minutes to 24 hours. My son did a rough translation and I can get a better one if you'd like. I may have the Japanese article at work. I've sent your image on to the NAMA president and we'll see what the group of mycologists say.

Susan Smolinske, Pharm.D, ABAT – Michigan Regional Poison Control Center, email: ssmolins@dmc.org

For the mushrooms in question, I'd suggest contacting Si Sohmer, PhD, at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, because he was originally from the Botanical Institute in Honolulu and might be aware of Asian sources. Another pure mushroom specialist is Vera Stucky Evanson at the Denver Botanical Garden who has written the popular book , *Colorado Mushrooms*.

Thomas Kurt, M.D, M.P.H – Clinical Professor, University of Texas Southwestern Email: kurtskarma@att.net

The closest ID that I can come up with is *Pleurocybella porrigens* which, if this is the mushroom, is listed as edible but has also been labelled poisonous in Japan, I believe. There may be variants. The tannish mushrooms in the inset appear like a *Clitocybe* but the name was changed to *Pleurocybella*, (I believe). If I get this right, I will strike a medal to pin on myself. A professional mycologist would probably be the one to provide a definitive ID,

Dominick Laudato, President, Long Island Mycological Society, Consultant LI Regional Poison and Drug Information Center Email: domlaud30@att.net

The mushroom is definitely NOT *Pleurocybella porrigens*. It looks like a *Hohenbuhelia* (e.g. *Hohenbuhelia petalloides*) but without examination of the fungus and some microscopy, it is impossible to tell for sure. As for the reported toxicology - there is no mushroom known anywhere in the world that has fast-acting toxins and so I highly doubt that this mushroom was the culprit in any fatalities. The symptoms also are vastly different from those in the Japanese *Pleurocybella porrigens* poisonings –

Dr. Michael W. Beug, Chair, NAMA Toxicology Committee Email : BeugM@evergreen.edu