Hen of the Woods

Grifola frondosa (Dickson) S. F. Gray







OVERALL: Savage Park,10/3/2008, *W. Earp.* OVERALL: Schooley Mill Park,10/5/2009, *J. Solem.* PORES: Gorman Stream Valley NRA, 10/28/2016, *J. Solem.* SPORES (5.4 – 5.9 X 3.8 – 4.1 μm): Pigtail, 10/21/2014, *R. Solem.*

Hen of the Woods Grifola frondosa Meripilaceae J F M M J J A S O N D + --- --+ ++++ +-- --+ ++++ +--

ID: Rosette of flattened caps w/ white/creamy-white pores when fresh. Cap brownish-gray, dull dark brown in age, matted and woolly, margin thin and wavy. Stalk off-center and repeatedly branched.

Habitat: Solitary, groups. On ground at base of living/dead trees/stumps (especially oak or maple). In open woods.

Fruiting Body: 0.8 - 3.1" x ca. 1/4" [2 - 8 cm x 6 mm] Gray/brownish-gray,dull dark brown in age. Smooth/finely matted and woolly; faintly/distinctly zoned. Overlapping caps branching from main stalk. Margin thin, wavy. Flesh white.

Pores: White/creamy-white. Angular but may be gill-like (1 - 3/mm). Tubes (<5 mm).

Stalk: 0.8 - 1.8" x up to 4" [2 - 4.5 cm x 10 cm] White, repeatedly branched.

Spores: White. Ellipsoid, smooth, hyaline.

Frequency: Fairly common.

Locations: BOLPL, CENPK, GONRA, MPENA, PIGTL, RKBRP, SAVPK, SLMLP, WSTRP.

Notes: Mycobank 362177. Pigtail and Gorman Stream Valley NRA specimens identified by examination of spores by R. Solem. Fruiting bodies to 24" [60 cm] diameter or more. Black Staining Polypore (*Meripilus sumstinei*) is similar, but all parts bruise blackish.

References: BBF 385, 397. BBH 257. Bin 281. Bni 423. E&S 303. K&M 185. Lin 463, 474, 475. M&M 420. Phi 300. Roo 355. Stu 310. W&L 527-8.