

# Trametes versicolor

## 1 Introduction

The fungus *Trametes versicolor* (also named *Coriolus versicolor*, *Polyporus versicolor*), is grown and sold as a decorative object. The *Trametes versicolor* is not meant for consumption. However, in order to exclude any possible risks, the toxicity of *Trametes* is checked by a literature search and the opinion of experts of fungi.

## 2 Literature research

In literature no indications are found that *Trametes versicolor* could be toxic. When toxicity is tried to establish, the amount needed for specific symptoms exceeded the quantities that would cause physical symptoms due to the large amount. A results of the literature search is that the LD<sub>50</sub> value with mice was higher than 18 g/kg (Chu, 2002; Jin, 1999; Zhong, 1999). In practical terms this means that LD<sub>50</sub> could not be reached. Translated to a human of 60 kg the LD<sub>50</sub> would be higher than 1080 gram of *Trametes*.

*Trametes* tastes very bad and has a leathery structure. In the FDA-database or the Codex Alimentarius *Trametes versicolor* is not indicated as foodstuff. According to fungus expert Joost Stalpers, who works at the 'Centraal bureau van de schimmelcultures' in Utrecht (Central Bureau of Fungi in Holland) *Trametes* is not toxic, but not edible, because of the toughness of the fungi.

## 3 Conclusion

*Trametes* is non toxic. No indications are found in literature for toxicity. The species is known as not edible because of the toughness of the fungi. It is therefore also not probable that someone would consume the *Trametes versicolor*.

## Literature

- 1 Chu, K.K.W., et al, 2002, Journal of Clinical Pharmacology; 42: 967-984.
- 2 Jin, T.Y., 1999, Hong Kong Association for Health Care; 272-284.
- 3 Zhong, B.Z. et al, 1999, Hong Kong Association for Health Care; 285-294.
- 4 Codex Alimentarius

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