

Matchmaker: Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest

Below are written descriptions and images of fruiting bodies, mushrooms, of the fungal species in this ectomycorrhizal association. The information is from the web version of the Matchmaker: Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest (MMPNW) created by the Canadian Forest Service and based on the Windows MMPNW version 1.3 by Ian and Eli Gibson.

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LATIN NAME(S) *Agaricus augustus* Fries Epicr. 212. 1836, Hym. Eur. 278. 1885

ENGLISH NAME(S) the prince

NOTES distinguished by large size, yellow staining cap with fibrils or scales that are dark brown to warm brown or tawny brown, gills that are pallid, sometimes briefly pinkish, then grayish-brown and chocolate brown from spores, stem that is smooth in u

CAP 7-30(40)cm usually marshmallow shaped but sometimes convex, expanding to flat or with an uplifted margin; "covered with numerous dark brown to warm brown or tawny-brown fibrils or fibrillose scales on a white background that usually becomes yellowish

FLESH thick, firm, white, (Arora), up to 3cm thick, firm when young; white, sometimes becoming yellow near cuticle after exposure, in stem white, occasionally yellowish somewhat near cuticle or base when cut, (Kerrigan)

GILLS free when mature, close; pallid, sometimes briefly pinkish, finally turning grayish-brown, eventually chocolate-brown to blackish brown, (Arora), free, close, up to 2cm broad; pallid when young, occasionally briefly pink, later grayish-brown, finally dark blackish-brown, with pallid margin, (Kerrigan)

STEM 8-35cm x 1-4(6)cm, equal or widening slightly downward, base usually deep in ground, rather tough, fibrous; "white but often aging or bruising yellowish"; "smooth above the ring, sheathed with white or brown-tipped scales below (but these often wearing away in age)", (Arora), 10-35cm x 1-4cm, equal, rarely widened in lower part, stuffed-hollow, somewhat fibrous, base deeply rooted; white, sometimes briefly pink near top after veil rupture, becoming pale yellowish when old; bald in upper part, under humid conditions completely covered in lower part with erect floccose squamules (woolly-cottony fine scales), (Kerrigan)



Alvin Funk



Norman Evans

VEIL "membranous, with white to brown cottony patches on underside (but these sometimes disappearing), forming a large, ample, superior, skirtlike ring", (Arora), "veils forming a thick, broadly flaring, pendant, subapical to suprmedian, white annulus", partial veil smooth above, 0.1-0.2cm thick, universal veil a loosely interwoven, floccose-rimose layer, with a zone of thicker (about 0.2-0.3cm thick) patches near ring margin, or sometimes appendiculate (hanging) on cap margin, patches white to colored as cap, universal veil also leaving a continuous covering of deciduous, white or brown-tipped, pointed, fibrillose-floccose squamules below ring, (Kerrigan), double, thick patches of pointed tips on underside, (PNW keys)

ODOR "sweet (like almond extract), especially when young", (Arora), of almonds (Kerrigan), pleasant, of almonds, (Phillips), anise (Hotson)

TASTE pleasant, of almonds, (Phillips)

EDIBILITY yes, one of the best, (Arora), occasional people get stomach upset, sweet and almondy when young, strong and mushroomy at maturity

HABITAT solitary or in groups or clumps on ground in woods, but usually near roads and paths, in clearings, and other places where soil disturbed, sometimes in flower beds, composted areas, under trees in towns, in arboretums, etc., (Arora), solitary to gregarious or cespitose (tufted), in litter under Sequoia, Picea, Tsuga, or occasionally Quercus, or under planted Cupressus or Pinus, usually near roads or paths, or rarely in lawns near trees, (Kerrigan for California)

SPORE DEPOSIT chocolate-brown (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores 7.5-10 x 5-6 microns, elliptic, smooth, (Arora), spores (6.8)7.7-9.4(10.5) x (4.5)5.1-6.0(6.8) microns, elliptic approaching elongate, hilar appendix prominent, germ pore not evident; basidia 4-spored, 18-22 x 9-10 microns, clavate to broadly clavate; cheilocystidia abundant, continuous, 6-30 x 6-22 microns, mostly elongate, sometimes shorter, to nearly spherical, short-catenulate, (Kerrigan)

NAME ORIGIN means "blessed, dignified, of great dimension", (Latin)

SIMILAR like praeclaresquamosus which has grayer cap fibrils, a smoother stem and smells like phenol; like subrufescens which is usually rather stocky, has a minutely scaly, pallid to pinkish-buff cap (Kerrigan), is paler than augustus, is stronger in odor, and has a smoother stem; like smithii which is "very slender, with an orangish cuticular pigment and an abruptly bulbous stipe base", (Kerrigan)

SOURCES Kerrigan(1), Arora*, Phillips*, Courtecuisse*, Smith(15), Wood(1), Isaacs, Breitenbach(4)*

FAMILY Agaricaceae of Order Agaricales