

## 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 diminutivus* Peck Bull. Buffalo Soc. Nat. Sci. 1: 53. 1873

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** diminutive *Agaricus*

**NOTES** features include small size, tall thin stature, pinkish brown to purplish fibrils on cap even at button stage, conifer habitat; Kauffman, Kerrigan, Phillips, and Isaacs also say that it turns yellow, although this was apparently not noted by Peck; Phillips gives range as throughout most of North America, Isaacs records for WA, Kerrigan for CA, Hotson & Smith described specimens from WA which Isaacs placed in a separate species *Agaricus hotsoni* with larger truncate spores (see separate entry), but that taxon was never validly published: the Hotson & Stuntz description is included here for comparison, **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** cap surface staining yellow in KOH

**CAP** 1-3cm, ovoid at first, later convex, finally nearly flat, not umbonate (in California collections, although one of Peck's description says "sometimes with slight umbo"); pink at first, when old becoming brown from appressed-fibrillose scales, disc co

**FLESH** 0.1-0.2cm thick; white, unchanging, in stem whitish becoming yellowish, (Kerrigan), 0.3cm off disc, soft; white, in stem white, turning yellowish when old, (Isaacs), thin, white, (Hotson)

**GILLS** free, close, up to 0.3cm broad; pallid then faintly if at all dull pink, finally dark blackish brown, (Kerrigan), free, close, rather broad, about 0.5cm broad, narrowly rounded at stem, bluntly pointed toward margin; bright rosy pink, then grayish vinaceous, (color in unopened buttons not seen), (Isaacs), close, ventricose, moderately broad; soon becoming grayish or purplish gray then black; edges entire, (Hotson)



Michael Beug

**STEM** 2-5cm x 0.1-0.3(0.4)cm, equal, narrowly stuffed-hollow, base shallowly rooted in forest litter; white, becoming yellowish or orangish; nearly bald in upper part, fibrillose in lower part when young, (Kerrigan), 5-6cm x 0.4-0.5cm, equal, round in cross-section, base oval-bulbous, 1.0cm thick, stem narrowly stuffed, becoming hollow; pallid ivory, becoming ochraceous buffy downward when old, yellowish where bruised; bald above ring, sparsely floccose below ring, (Isaacs), 3-4cm x 0.3-0.4cm, equal, base slightly bulbous, stuffed then hollow; white, staining yellow where touched; satiny smooth, (Hotson)

**VEIL** ring small, fragile, pendant, flaring about 0.2cm, suprmedian, white, not double, (Kerrigan), ring superior, pendulous, 0.5cm wide, persistent, thin-membranous, upper surface smooth, lower surface sparsely floccose, single, floccose edge, white or pale ivory, then apricot orange when old, (Isaacs), small superior pendant ring, thin as tissue paper but persistent, white, (Hotson), ring white but becoming apricot-orange on drying or when old, (PNW keys)

**ODOR** almonds (Kerrigan), strong, pleasant, almond or anise, (Isaacs), pleasant (Phillips), none (Hotson)

**TASTE** pleasant (Phillips), none (Hotson)

**EDIBILITY** presumably, but avoid because sometimes confused with *Inocybes*

**HABITAT** scattered on ground or leaf litter (Phillips), under conifers (PNW keys), solitary to scattered-gregarious in litter of mixed evergreen and mixed coniferous forests, (Kerrigan for California), gregarious under conifers in leaf mold and needles, (Isaacs)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** presumably close to chocolate-brown

**MICROSCOPIC** spores (4.1)4.9-5.4(6.4) x (3.4)3.6-3.9(4.5) microns, elliptic to broadly elliptic, hilar appendix somewhat prominent, germ pore not evident, (Kerrigan), basidia 4-spored or substantially 2-spored, 10.5-20 x 7.5-10.5 microns, clavate to vent

**NAME ORIGIN** means 'small'

**SIMILAR** like rare lookalike *Agaricus hotsoni*, never validly published, described as *diminutivus* by Hotson & Stuntz, which has larger spores with evident truncate distal end, (PNW keys); like *comtulus* and *micromegathus* which both grow in grass, like *semot*

**SOURCES** Kerrigan(1), Isaacs (colors from Ridgway and Kornerup(2) or Maerz), Phillips\*, Arora, Barron\*, PNW keys, Hotson

**FAMILY** Agaricaceae of Order Agaricales