

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.

[Click for further information about MMPNW](#)

Many illustrations need confirmation. Do not use this information to determine edibility.

I have read and agreed to the [disclaimer](#) and [copyright information](#).

LATIN NAME(S) *Agaricus praeclaresquamosus* Freeman
Mycotaxon 8: 90. 1979; *Agaricus meleagris* (J. Schaeff.) Imbach;
Agaricus placomyces Peck

ENGLISH NAME(S) flat-top *Agaricus*

NOTES distinguishing characters are size, minute blackish-brown scales on cap, free close pallid to pinkish young gills, bald stem that stains yellow when end of base cut, thick rubbery double ring, and phenolic odor; common in Pacific Northwest, including at least BC, WA, OR, CA, Murrill gives distribution as temperate North America, south to AL and west to CA, **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** cap surface staining yellow in KOH (Arora), bright yellow 3% KOH, yellow to orange 15% KOH, (Isaacs)

CAP 5-25cm, at first convex to somewhat marshmallow shaped, then broadly convex or flat; "covered with flattened inky-gray to grayish-brown or brown fibrils or fibrillose scales (at least at center) on a whitish background, but often developing reddish or pinkish stains in wet weather", in one form bruising yellow; dry, (Arora), 5-11(20)cm, "at first cylindric-truncate to cuboidal, later convex or often angular-truncate", finally flat or rarely uplifted; dark brown, background whitish to buff; dry, innately fibrillose, becoming appressed - fine-scaly, fine scales about 0.1-0.4cm long, pointed, (Kerrigan)



Michael Wood (MykoWeb)



Eileen Seto

FLESH thick; "white, unchanging or staining slightly yellow when bruised and then slowly discoloring brownish or vinaceous", (Arora), up to 1.5(3)cm thick, white, in cap unchanging immediately after sectioning but several minutes later developing vinaceous tints where flesh has been crushed, in stem white, and when cut basal 0.05-0.2cm usually quickly becoming bright yellow, otherwise stem flesh unchanging, several minutes later yellow tones fading, then vinaceous areas appearing especially in lower part, (Kerrigan), the base of the stem where bruised quickly becomes bright yellow and this color then slowly changes to reddish-brown, the same colors appear more slowly and less intensely in the upper stem and cap, except that the yellow first becomes red and then brown, in the cap it may finally change to purplish-red, (Hotson)

GILLS free at maturity, close; "at first pallid, then grayish or light pink turning reddish brown to chocolate brown and finally blackish-brown", (Arora), free, close, up to 0.5(1.2)cm broad; at first pallid, later somewhat pinkish, finally dark blackish brown, (Kerrigan)

STEM 7-15cm x 1-3(4)cm, equal or widened below or sometimes tapering to a point if growing in clusters, stuffed or hollow; white but often discoloring reddish-brown to dingy brown either when old or upon handling, extreme base of stem often bruises bright yellow when nicked like xanthoderma; smooth, without scales, (Arora), 8-12(15)cm x 1.0-2.7(4.5)cm, equal to slightly bulbous, base moderately shallowly rooted in soil; white, unchanging except for vinaceous tones that appear long after bruising; bald, (Kerrigan)

VEIL membranous, white, thick, felt-like, somewhat rubbery, often splitting at the margin", "rupturing to form a persistent, superior, skirtlike or intermediate ring", (Arora), veils separating early from cap margin, forming thick, tough, pendant to rarely intermediate, subapical, white ring, sometimes with an upper boundary, "upper and lower surfaces smooth, tending to remain entire, separating only to form a slight marginal groove", or occasionally some short rudimentary radial fissures present in universal veil, margin thick, up to 0.6(1.0)cm, (Kerrigan)

ODOR phenolic odor of crushed flesh especially in base of stem (Arora), mild or phenolic, often strongly so, (Isaacs), phenolic (Kerrigan), unpleasant, phenolic, inklike, especially when flesh is crushed or cooked, (Phillips)

TASTE unpleasant metallic (Arora), mild, almond, or oily-disagreeable, (Isaacs), similar to odor (Phillips)

EDIBILITY poisonous to many with vomiting and diarrhea (Arora)



Alvin Funk

HABITAT solitary or in groups or clusters on ground in woods or under trees, especially along roadsides and paths, (Arora), single, gregarious, or in thick flesh clusters, growing under both conifers and hardwoods, occasionally in lawns, (Isaacs), solitary or gregarious and often in a row, frequently in compacted soil along roads and paths, most commonly under Sequoia, occasionally under other trees, (Kerrigan for California)

SPORE DEPOSIT chocolate-brown (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores 4-6.5 x 3-4.5 microns, elliptic, smooth, (Arora) spores (3.4)4.7-5.7(6.8) x (3.0)3.2-4.0(4.8) microns, (more robust fruiting bodies seem to have slightly broader spores than their slender counterparts), elliptic, hilar appendix somewhat prominent, germ pore not evident; basidia 4-spored, about 20 x 7-8 microns, clavate, sterigmata 2-3 microns; cheilocystidia 18-23 x 7-9 microns clavate to broadly clavate, scattered, gill margin primarily narrow hyphae oriented parallel to margin and almost sterile, (Kerrigan)

NAME ORIGIN prae- means before, clare means 'clear', squamosus means 'scaly'

SIMILAR like the eastern species *placomyces* which is somewhat smaller, has a more fibrillose (less scaly) cap, a very elastic rather than rubbery veil, often shows yellowish to brown droplets on the underside of the veil or on stem, and has different spore size

SOURCES Kerrigan(1), Arora*, Phillips*, Kibby*, Courtecuisse*, Hotson, Murrill(7) (as *placomyces*)

FAMILY Agaricaceae of Order Agaricales