

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 subrufescens* Peck Ann. Rep. N.Y.State Mus. 46: 25. 1893; *Pholiota fulvosquamosa* Peck

ENGLISH NAME(S) almond mushroom

NOTES features include overall robust stature, numerous small scales on cap that are pallid to buff to pale brown, pale pinkish-brown, or fawn-colored, often becoming browner or ruddier with age, flesh that is unchanging or bruising slightly yellow, free

CAP (6)8-25cm, round or marshmallow-shaped becoming convex to flat; "fibrils pallid to buff to pale brown, pale pinkish-brown, or fawn-colored, often becoming browner or ruddier with age, background white to pinkish-buff, often becoming yellow in age or

FLESH thick, firm; white, no yellow bruising or only very slight, (Arora), up to 1-2cm, thick; white, unchanging or very faintly yellowish near top of stem; in stem slightly lustrous and fibrous, white, slowly developing sordid to salmon-colored tones in lower part when cut, (Kerrigan), rather thin, soft, fragile at maturity; white, unchanging, (Isaacs)

GILLS free at maturity, close; "whitish becoming grayish or pinkish, then reddish-brown and finally chocolate-brown or darker", (Arora), free, close, up to 0.8-1.0cm broad; at first white but soon pink or more flesh-toned, finally dark blackish-brown, margin may be slightly pallid, (Kerrigan), free, not very remote, crowded, narrow; at first white, then pinkish, finally blackish-brown, edge at first minutely white-fimbriate (white-fringed), (Isaacs)

STEM 6-15cm x 1.5-4cm, equal or with an enlarged base; "white, but often staining or aging yellow, base often staining yellow to yellow-orange but flesh in base not staining bright yellow when cut"; "smooth or with a few fibrils or scales below the ring"



Ben Woo

VEIL "thick, membranous, white, usually with patches (often obscure) on underside", forming a superior skirtlike ring, (Arora), veils forming a thick broadly flaring, pendant, suprmedian, white ring, upper surface nearly smooth, margin thick, double, dentate (toothed) or twice-dentate, or covered below with torn, floccose, cuboidal patches about 0.2-0.4cm square, lower surface very finely striate at first due to separation of fibers from stem surface, later floccose, universal veil also leaving short, erect fibrils on stem below ring which fall off, (Kerrigan), ring "very voluminous, reflexed, double, rather distant from the apex of the stem, smooth and white above, with soft, floccose, pale tawny scales below, becoming dark from spores", (Isaacs)

ODOR strong sweet like almond extract, especially when young, (Arora), strongly almond (Kerrigan), when crushed, strong of almonds, (Isaacs)

TASTE strong of almond extract (Arora), of green nuts (Isaacs), like almonds or not distinctive (Bessette)

EDIBILITY yes, for most people, (Arora)

HABITAT "scattered to densely gregarious or clustered in compost, manure and rich soil, or in mixed woods", (Arora), densely gregarious to cespitose (tufted), on soil incorporating manure or composted vegetable matter, as in gardens, (Kerrigan), cespitose, on masses of decaying fallen leaves in deciduous woods and in richly manured hot-house beds, (Isaacs)

SPORE DEPOSIT chocolate-brown (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores 5.5-7 x 4-5 microns, elliptic, smooth, (Arora), spores "(5.3-5.6)6.1(6.8-7.5) x (4.1)4.4(4.5-4.9)" microns, elliptic, hilar appendix not prominent, germ pore not evident; basidia 4-spored, 15-18 x 6 microns, cylindro-clavate, sterigmata 2-3 microns long; cheilocystidia fairly abundant, forming a nearly continuous band, 5-22 x 4-8 microns, 'subspherical, elongate, "dumbbell-shaped", or various, catenulate or not', (Kerrigan), spores 6-7 x 4-5 microns, elliptic, smooth; sterile cells on edge of gills numerous, subcylindric, very narrow, colorless, (Isaacs)

NAME ORIGIN means 'becoming somewhat red'

SIMILAR like augustus which has larger spores and in western North America is paler with smoother stem; cap color like hondensis but odor and habitat different; like praeclaresquamosus which has blackish brown scales rather than reddish brown and different odor; like subrutilescens which has wine-colored scales; like smithii which has usually larger size, a straw-yellow to tawny cap, and is less stocky with longer spores, but has been considered by some authors to be the same species

SOURCES Kerrigan(1), Arora*, Isaacs, Bessette(2)*, Hotson, PNW
keys, Murrill(7), Lowe, Davidson, Kauffman

FAMILY Agaricaceae of Order Agaricales