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

LATIN NAME(S) Amanita constricta Thiers & Ammirati Mycotaxon 15: 163. 1982

ENGLISH NAME(S) constricted grisette

NOTES characterized by tall slender stature, gray markedly striate cap, absence of partial veil and ring, presence of constricted volva with flaring upper border, and when moist, the characteristic reddish staining of the universal veil; which of the grisettes occur in the Pacific Northwest is uncertain although they are common as a group: pachycolea and vaginata (and presumably fulva) differ from the constricta group in that the volva on vaginata is attached only at the bottom of the stem and in the constricta group the volva is firmly attached partway up the stem and flares open at the top; A. constricta sensu lato reported from WA by O'Dell(1), described from CA

CAP 4-13cm, oval becoming convex or flat to slightly umbonate; color beneath the veil tissue (if present) gray, or sometimes brownish-gray; smooth or covered with a large patch of white to buff or grayish universal veil tissue which often separates later

FLESH fragile, rather thin; white to grayish, (Arora), thin, 0.5-1.7cm thick at disc, thinning toward margin, fragile; gray to drab next to cap surface, white below that, sometimes becoming very faintly pinkish when exposed, especially when young, (Thiers)

GILLS adnate to free, close; white or grayish, (Arora), adnate to decurrent by a short hook when young, becoming free, close to crowded, subgills in several series, moderately broad; white at first becoming gray "smoke gray" to "pallid mouse gray" to "pale drab gray", edge usually gray; edge fimbriate (fringed), (Thiers)

STEM 10-16cm x 1-2cm, "equal or tapering upward", stuffed or hollow when old, "smooth or more often belted with numerous delicate grayish scales", (Arora), 10-16(20)cm x 0.7-1.7cm, "equal or tapering downward", not bulbous, stuffed becoming hollow, no r

VEIL ring absent

ODOR not distinctive (Thiers)

Michael Wood (MykoWeb)

Ben Woo

TASTE not distinctive (Thiers)

EDIBILITY yes but be sure of identification (Arora)

HABITAT solitary to scattered or in groups in woods, especially with oaks, (Arora), in coastal forests where it occurs mainly under hardwoods such as coastal oaks and madrones, but it has, on occasion, also been found under Douglas fir, (Thiers)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Arora, Thiers)

MICROSCOPIC spores 9.5-13 x 8-10.5 microns, elliptic to nearly round, smooth, inamyloid, (Arora), spores 9.6-12.8(14.4) x 8-10.4(11.2) microns, round to nearly round to obovoid, smooth, inamyloid, thin-walled, colorless in KOH, apiculus strongly developed, eccentric; basidia 4-spored, occasionally 1-spored and 2-spored, 56-70(77) x 11-16 microns, clavate, colorless in KOH; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia not differentiated, margin cells of gills abundant to absent, 30-40 x 15-22 microns, saccate to sphaeropedunculate, colorless in KOH; clamp connections absent, (Thiers)

NAME ORIGIN means 'constricted'

SIMILAR like pachycolea and vaginata but volva constricted, frequently has universal veil tissue on cap, and universal veil characteristically stains reddish; like ceciliae which has gray to grayish-brown to blackish cap decorated with gray to charcoal-gray warts (which may wear off when old) and round spores (10-14 microns) as opposed to elliptic to nearly round

SOURCES Thiers(5), Arora*, O'Dell(1)

FAMILY Pluteaceae of Order Agaricales