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) Amanita muscaria (L.) Pers.

ENGLISH NAME(S) fly Amanita, fly Agaric

NOTES characterized by brightly colored cap with whitish warts, white gills, membranous ring, and volva consisting of a series of scaly concentric rings above the basal bulb; the commonest variety in the Pacific Northwest is flavivolvata with red cap an

CAP 5-30(40)cm, spherical becoming convex then flat to slightly depressed; bright red to blood-red, scarlet-red or orange-red often fading to orange, yellow-orange or paler (var. flavivolvata - southern and western North America), can be bright yellow-orange to yellow fading (formosa - most common variety in eastern North America), yellow with peachy center (persicina - southeast), or white to buff to silvery-grayish-white (alba - northern), covered at first with pyramidal warts which are whitish to pale yellowish tan (var. flavivolvata), pallid or tan to yellow (var. formosa), buff or tan (var. alba); warts flattened when old, often wearing away or washed off by rain, cap smooth and a bit sticky when wet, margins obscurely striate

FLESH thick, firm when young, soft when old; white

GILLS free to adnate, broad, close; whitish

STEM 5-20(30)cm x 0.3-3(4)cm at top, tapering upward or equal with a basal bulb 0-6cm broad, hollow to stuffed, white to cream or somewhat discolored when old, smooth or with ragged cottony scales below ring, VOLVA consists of series of scaly concentric rings (usually 2-4) above basal bulb which leaves rings of cottony warts on the lower stem, rarely with free collar at top of bulb

VEIL membranous, usually forming a thin, persistent, median to superior, skirtlike ring which may collapse when old; ring white, fragile, lined above and woolly below, may have yellow patches, ring margin often torn or toothed

ODOR faint

TASTE pleasant

EDIBILITY poisonous, a neurotoxic mushroom: it is uncertain whether there are long term consequences; concentrates vanadium from soil

Taylor F Lockwood

Catherine Ardrey

Janet Lindgren

HABITAT solitary or scattered to densely gregarious or in large fairy rings in forests and at their edges, also with planted trees, woodland, often under birch, tendency to be accompanied by Boletus edulis

SPORE DEPOSIT white

MICROSCOPIC spores 9-13 x 6.5-9 microns, elliptic, smooth, inamyloid, (Arora), spores 9.2-11.6 x 6.4-9.5 microns, nearly round to broadly elliptic, smooth; basidia 4-spored, 40-50 x 10-13 microns, clavate, occasionally with basal clamp; pleurocystidia not seen, marginal cells basidiole-like to cystidiole-like; cap cuticle consisting of periclinal hyphae 1-4.5 microns across, strongly gelatinized, occasional septa with clamps, (Breitenbach)

NAME ORIGIN means "to do with flies" and it was used mixed with milk to stupefy flies

SOURCES Arora*, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Ammirati*, Kibby*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Courtecuisse*, Bessette(2)*, Barron*, Jumpponen(1), Breitenbach(4)*, Michelot(1)

FAMILY Pluteaceae of Order Agaricales

Steven Trudell

Michael Beug