

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 phalloides (Fr.) Link

ENGLISH NAME(S) death-cap

NOTES a deadly poisonous species, fatal dose varies tremendously but averages 2 ounces: avoid eating mushrooms with any 2 of white gills, white spores, superior skirtlike ring, membranous sac-like volva, and non-striate cap (Arora) unless sure; greenish coloration is helpful when present as is pungent odor when old; found at least BC (3 locations up to 1999), WA, OR, CA, NYBG has collections from PQ, AL, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, IN, MA, ME, MI, MD, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, TN, TX, VA, VT, Uruguay, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Australia, **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** gills turn lilac pinkish in concentrated sulphuric acid

CAP 4-16cm, at first nearly oval then convex to flat; color variable: green to brownish-olive, yellow-green, yellowish, or sometimes white, often darker toward center and paler at margin, often fading when old (to grayish-green, light brown, olive-buff, dull yellowish etc.); sometimes with one or more patches of thin, silky, white universal veil tissue, smooth, viscid or tacky when moist, often shiny when dry or with a metallic luster, margin typically non-striate, often appears radially streaky

FLESH white

GILLS adnate to adnexed or free, close; white, or tinged faintly greenish

STEM 5-18cm x 1-3cm, tapering upwards or equal with an enlarged base, white sometimes tinged with cap color, smooth or with minute scales and fibrils, solid or hollow, **VOLVA** universal veil membranous white forming saclike volva that sheathes base of stem, volva thin and rather fragile, usually buried in ground and sometimes disintegrating

VEIL membranous, white or tinged yellow green, forming a persistent but fragile, superior, skirtlike ring which may disappear when old

ODOR at first mild but later quite pungent or sickly sweet then nauseating like raw potatoes or chlorine



Fred Stevens (MykoWeb)



Michael Wood (MykoWeb)

TASTE not unpleasant, but don't try it: too poisonous

EDIBILITY deadly poisonous due to amanitins, symptoms begin after 6-24 hours with vomiting, bloody diarrhea, and abdominal cramps for a day or so, then apparent recovery for a day or so, then liver and kidney failure

HABITAT solitary, scattered or in groups or troops in woods or on lawns near trees, mixed woods especially *Corylus* (filbert, hazelnut), sweet chestnut (*Castanea*), found in BC under beech, sweet chestnut, hazelnut (*Corylus avellanea*) and Washington under hazelnut, in California has spread to native oaks

SPORE DEPOSIT white

MICROSCOPIC spores 7-12 x 6-9 microns, elliptic to nearly round, smooth, amyloid, (Arora), spores 7.7-10.1 x 6.7-8.5 microns, nearly round to broadly elliptic; basidia 4-spored, 50-62 x 12-15 microns, without basal clamp; pleurocystidia not seen, marginal cells 29-45 x 13-25 microns, pyriform to vesicular; cap cuticle of periclinal hyphae 1.5-6 microns wide, hyphae in the uppermost layer gelatinized, deeper hyphae brownish-pigmented, septa without clamps, (Breitenbach)

NAME ORIGIN means 'like a penis'

SIMILAR like destroying angels (*verna*, *virosa*, *bisporigera*, *ocreata*) especially *verna* when white, but white forms of *phalloides* usually growing in association with greener forms

SOURCES Arora*, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Kibby*, Ammirati*, Lincoff(1)*, Courtecuisse*, Bessette(2)*, Ammirati(11)*, NYBG, Breitenbach(4)*

FAMILY Pluteaceae of Order Agaricales



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