

## 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 rubescens* (Fr.) S.F.Gray

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** blushing Amanita, the blusher

**NOTES** features include whitish to red-brown color, reddish staining reaction, warty cap that is slightly viscid or dry, skirtlike ring, and indistinct scaly volva; rare in Pacific Northwest if it occurs: some reports are actually *A. novinupta*, Breitenbach & Kranzlin give distribution of *A. rubescens* as North America, Europe, Asia, North Africa

**CAP** 4-12(20)cm, convex becoming flat or shallowly depressed; smoky red brown to flesh colored, can be white yellowish or olive, later flushed sordid reddish, pinkish, reddish-brownish, brown etc.; with raised cottony volval patches or warts which can be white, pinkish, brownish or grayish, slightly viscid or dry, non-striate or obscurely striate

**FLESH** firm; white, slowly bruising red

**GILLS** adnate to adnexed when young, sometimes free when old, close; whitish bruising or staining pink to red-brown

**STEM** 5-14(20)cm x 1-3.5cm, equal or enlarging down to bulb, white flushed with cap color, staining sordid reddish, reddish-brown, or pinkish below ring, slowly turning pink when bruised, best seen lower stem or around edges of maggot tunnels, silky to slightly woolly, somewhat scaly below ring, VOLVA universal veil friable (crumbling easily), forming an indistinct or scaly volva consisting of reddish pieces adhering randomly to bulb which may disappear

**VEIL** membranous, white or tinged reddish, forming a superior, fragile, skirtlike ring

**ODOR** mild, pleasant

**TASTE** mild pleasant or latently bitter

**EDIBILITY** eaten cooked in Europe, but indigestible or poisonous raw, and too many lookalikes, don't eat

**HABITAT** solitary to scattered on in groups in woods and under oak, pine

**SPORE DEPOSIT** white

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 7.5-10.5 x 5-7 microns, elliptic, smooth, amyloid (unlike pantherina and muscaria), (Arora); spores 8-11.4 x 4.7-6.5 microns, cylindric - pip-shaped, smooth; basidia 4-spored, 38-44 x 10-12 microns, clavate, without basal clamps; pleurocystidia not seen, cheilocystidia 20-30 x 10-20 microns, clavate to vesicular; cap cuticle of periclinal hyphae 1.5-3.5 microns across, gelatinized, septa without clamps, (Breitenbach)

**NAME ORIGIN** means 'becoming red'

**SIMILAR** like *novinupta* q.v.; somewhat like *brunnescens* q.v., like light or faded forms of *franchetii* which don't stain the same way

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

**FAMILY** Pluteaceae of Order Agaricales