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 silvicola Kauffman

ENGLISH NAME(S) western woodland Amanita

NOTES features are white color, stout stature for an Amanita, cap with cottony patches, enlarged stem base, and mild to soapy to fishy odor; common in Pacific Northwest, reported specifically for BC (in Redhead(5)) and for WA by O'Dell(1), CHEMICAL REACTIONS vertically cut stem staining pinkish in SYR plus p-cresol, unlike smithiana

CAP 5-12cm, convex to flat, often incurved; cottony white but occasionally discolored when old; with flattened cottony or fluffy-powdery patches or universal veil tissue rather than warts, dry or slightly viscid when moist, non-striate, often margin remnants and margin often extends past gills

FLESH thick at center of cap thinner at margin; white

GILLS free or adnate to adnexed, close; white; edges finely powdery or cottony

STEM 5-12cm x 1-2.5cm, usually rather stout, narrows downward, enlarged (marginate or club-shaped) stem base 0-5cm broad, white with occasional brown stains, pruinose or with cottony scales especially at top, VOLVA universal veil cottony white forming a scaly or indistinct volva fragile white, clinging to bulb in fragments and breaking up into concentric circular zones but often adhering to earth

VEIL white, delicate, forming a slight ring or fibrillose zone or disappearing

ODOR mild or slightly soapy or may be fishy when old

TASTE not distinctive

EDIBILITY unknown, don't eat because of resemblance to smithiana

HABITAT solitary or in small groups in coniferous or mixed woods especially Douglas fir

SPORE DEPOSIT white

MICROSCOPIC spores 8-12 x 4.5-6 microns, elliptic, smooth, amyloid

NAME ORIGIN means 'living in forest'

Catherine Ardrey

Janet Lindgren

SIMILAR like smithiana but stem of smithiana more likely to be rooting and spindle-shaped (as opposed to marginate or clavate), odor unpleasant, warts on cap rather than patches (but may not be distinct), usually taller especially when young, clamp connections present, and no chemical reaction of cut stem to SYR + p-cresol

SOURCES Arora, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Ammirati*, McKnight*, Redhead(5), O'Dell(1)

FAMILY Pluteaceae of Order Agaricales

Alvin Funk