

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 smithiana* Bas Persoonia 5: 418. 1969

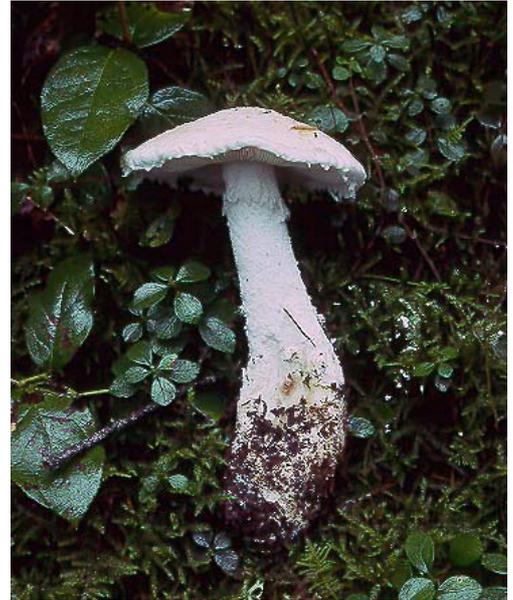
ENGLISH NAME(S) Smith's Amanita

NOTES features include white color, tall stature, cap with cottony indistinct warts, ragged scaly stem with spindle-shaped bulb which is often rooting, poorly developed ring, volva with concentric zones, mild to pungent odor, and conifer habitat in or near rotten wood; common, found at least BC, WA, OR, ID, CA, NM, **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** paracresol test for tyrosinase positive except in base of bulb and in gills, with strongest reaction in top third of stem, syringaldazine test for laccase positive in a line parallel to cap cuticle and about 0.2cm below it in cap flesh, also in spots on gills and very tip of bulb, (Tulloss)

CAP 5-17cm, hemispherical then convex to flat-convex, sometimes subumbonate (somewhat umbonate), margin downcurved at first, finally flaring upward when old, margin projecting slightly beyond gills, nonstriate, appendiculate with dense white floccose submembranous (somewhat membranous) material; "white or whitish or ivory, sometimes becoming pale tan in dry weather, infrequently with pinkish staining, sometimes yellowish on margin from handling or drying", subviscid (slightly viscid) at first, remaining tacky when moist, becoming shiny on drying, and developing kid leather texture, (Tulloss)

FLESH up to 1.5-2cm thick at stem, thinning evenly to margin; in cap and stem white, unchanging when cut or bruised, (Tulloss)

GILLS free to narrowly adnate, sometimes with a faint decurrent line on stem apex, close to crowded, 0.6-1.1cm broad, broadest about halfway from stem to cap margin, rarely forking, subgills truncate to rounded truncate (short ones) or attenuate (longer ones), often unevenly distributed among gills; "white to cream to ivory to pale pinkish buff in mass, in side view clay white or occasionally translucent, sometimes becoming cream in age"; edge white fringed-flocculose, (Tulloss)



Dick Bishop



John Dennis

STEM 6-16cm x 1.0-3.5cm, equal or widening downward, usually solid, occasionally with short hollow lumen, commonly lacking insect tunnels, bulb broadly or narrowly fusiform (spindle-shaped), up to 13cm or more long and up to 5.5cm wide, with occasional extended rootlike projection that is very difficult to collect in its entirety, but may be 30cm long; "white, bruising slowly buff to pinkish buff where handled"; decorated with floccose/squamulose zones that can disappear with age and with fibrils that may becoming somewhat brownish, VOLVA in broken concentric rings of irregular warts at top of bulb, removable, (Tulloss)

VEIL universal veil "white to whitish to pale buff to pale pinkish buff to cream buff to tan to brownish", darker colors apparently attributable to warm dry weather and/or age, occurring as floccose/felted patches or occasionally as easily crushed subpyramidal or subconical warts especially over disk, in either case reduced to unevenly distributed finer flocculence toward margin, removable as long as cap remains moist, on stem universal veil in broken rings of irregular warts at top of bulb, removable; partial veil as floccose-fibrillose-submembranous ring, superior, ragged, or lacerate, (Tulloss)

ODOR absent to mild to somewhat faintly pungent or salty or like dust from ground bark of Douglas fir, to yeastlike or with cut surfaces smelling like green tomatoes or tomato plants, very strong and unpleasant when old, almost hamlike with tinges of chlorine, (Tulloss)

TASTE mild to somewhat sweet or lacking; when cooked by someone poisoned, radishlike, superb to moderately acidic bitter, (Tulloss), do not taste

EDIBILITY poisonous, in a number of poisonings *A. smithiana* has been considered a possible cause with the following picture: after 4-10 or more hours, gastrointestinal symptoms, followed by kidney failure with or without liver failure, (Tulloss)

HABITAT solitary to gregarious, usually under conifers, often amidst or near very rotten wood, (Tulloss)

SPORE DEPOSIT white to pale cream (Tulloss)

MICROSCOPIC (6.5)8.5-12.0(16.0) x (4.3)5.8-7.9(10.8) microns, elliptic to elongate, often adaxially flattened, sometimes swollen at one end, smooth, amyloid, contents guttulate or granular; basidia dominantly 4-spored, occasionally 1-spored, rarely 2- or 3-spored, 43-70 x 8.5-13.8(15.0) microns, thin-walled, slenderly clavate, clamps and proliferated clamps rather common, (Tulloss)

SIMILAR like *silvicola* with its white color and ragged or shaggy stem, but stem of *smithiana* more likely to be rooting and spindle-shaped (as opposed to marginate or clavate), odor may be unpleasant, warts on cap rather than patches (but may not be distinct), usually taller especially when young, clamp connections present on basidia, somewhat smaller spores, lack of chains of inflated cells in universal veil remnants on cap, and no chemical reaction of cut stem to SYR + p-cresol; like *cokeri* but poorly developed ring, cottony to scaly stem surface, and cap lacks the distinct warts of *cokeri*; like *Tricholoma magnivelare* but odor different, large distinctive stem scales absent, ring usually poorly developed or ragged, shape tends to be tall and thin rather than squat and robust; in earlier years often mistakenly identified as *solitaria* or *chlorinosma*

SOURCES Tulloss(3), Lincoff(2)*, Ammirati*, PNW keys

FAMILY Pluteaceae of Order Agaricales