

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) *Armillaria ostoyae* (Romagn.) Herink in Hasek: Symposium o vaclavce obecne *Armillaria mellea* (Vahl ex Fr.) Kummer p 42. Brno. 1973; *Armillaria obscura*

ENGLISH NAME(S) honey mushroom, North American Biological Species I

NOTES *Armillaria mellea* group, a pathogen of conifers; features within the group include brown cap covered by dark scales, sometimes large size, clustered cespitose habit on stumps and at the base of coniferous and hardwood trees, belt-shaped rhizomorphs, and clamp connections on basidia as well as binucleate subhymenial cells; *Armillaria obscura* is a misapplied name according to Termorshuizen and Arnolds (1987); colors in single quotation marks in Berube description are from Kornerup; common in Pacific Northwest, and has a very wide distribution throughout North America, from Pacific to Atlantic coast but predominantly "in the northern temperature region", BC, WA, ON, PQ, ME, MI, NH, NY, VT, southern Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Poland, United Kingdom (England, Scotland)

CAP 5-10cm, convex to nearly flat; tan to yellowish brown to more typically dark reddish-brown; densely covered with dark reddish brown to blackish hairs, dry, (Bessette), 5-10cm, hemispherical-bellshaped or obtusely parabolic, then convex and finally flat; sometimes of pale colors like 'orange white' or 'caramel brown', but usually darker like reddish brown, 'raw sienna', 'light brown', yellowish brown, 'burnt Sienna', 'tan', or 'leather', and even very dark colors like 'eye brown', 'brownish gray', with distinct scales in shades of dark reddish colors ranging from grayish red, 'liver (brown)', 'photo brown', or in shades of dark brownish color like 'caramel (brown)', 'beaver', 'leather', 'eye brown', to sometimes 'anthracite' and black, distributed over the surface but more densely toward the center; dry, (Berube), up to 30cm, (Volk), the scaliest of the mellea group species, (Kibby)



John Dennis

FLESH firm, rather thick at center; white, (Bessette), firm 1-2cm thick at top of stem; white, (Berube)

GILLS attached to subdecurrent, close; white to cream at first, becoming grayish orange to cinnamon, (Bessette), adnate to slightly decurrent becoming sinuate in mature specimens, thick at the point of attachment to the stem but thinner toward the margin; white or 'cream' when young, to grayish orange, 'cinnamon' later, (Berube)

STEM 5-20cm long and about 1.5cm wide, typically widening downward at first becoming equal, often pointed at base, fibrous, the fibers generally orangish to reddish brown, entire stem staining mahogany to blackish, often with adhering bits of partial veil, with yellow mycelium at the extreme base, (Bessette), 5-20cm long, about 1.5cm wide, clubshaped when young, becoming more or less equal, fibrous; covered with fibers ranging from grayish orange, 'light brown', 'burnt Sienna' and 'hazel', staining black or sometimes 'mahogany (red)'; sometimes deeply striate, (Berube), black rhizomorphs are branching and flattened with blunt tips, (Kibby)

VEIL thick, membranous, leaving a whitish ring with a fluffy brown margin, (Bessette), thick membranous ring, usually white to "alabaster", circled with a thick fluffy band at margin ranging from "tan" to "chestnut", broken in many places leaving the stem marked and covered at many locations with dark fluffy remnants concolorous to the ring, (Berube), ring thick white with blackish brown scales on the edge and down the stem in many specimens, (Kibby)

ODOR not distinctive (Bessette)

TASTE not distinctive (Bessette)

EDIBILITY a fine edible if thoroughly cooked (Bessette), has been reported to cause some people some gastrointestinal upset if collected from hemlock, but Volk believes most of the reported upset is due to undercooking (and overeating) of larger collections, (Volk)

HABITAT typically in large clusters but sometimes solitary on or about stumps or trees, (Bessette), in BC found from 49 degrees latitude to 53 degrees primarily on conifers, but hardwoods within disease centers in conifer stands were frequently attacked and killed, (Morrison), on the Olympic peninsula in Washington, almost exclusively on conifers, especially *Tsuga heterophylla* (western hemlock), but also *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas-fir) and *Picea sitchensis* (Sitka spruce), singly but most commonly in large fasciculate groups on decaying wood debris, dead stumps, dead trees, dead roots, declining trees, and healthy root, hosts include hemlock, Douglas fir, spruce, pine, oak, birch, maple, (Berube)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Bessette), ivory (Berube)

MICROSCOPIC spores 8-11 x 5.5-7 microns, broadly elliptic to oval, smooth, inamyloid clamp connections at the bases of some basidia, (Bessette), spores 8-11 x 5.5-7 microns, broadly elliptic to ovate, apiculate, smooth, inamyloid; basidia 4-spored, some with a clamp connection; pleurocystidia absent, margin of gills composed of polymorphic sterile cells, (Berube)

SIMILAR sinapina has pale to dark brown cap with reddish tinges, a mustard yellow veil, and brown scales, (as opposed to dark to very dark brown cap densely covered with dark scales, [but see also below]), fibrous, thin, appressed annulus which is mustar

SOURCES Berube, Bessette(2)*, Morrison, Kibby*, Courtecuisse*, Banik, Volk(2), Allen

FAMILY Marasmiaceae of Order Agaricales