

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) *Asterophora lycoperdoides* (Bull.ex.Mer.) Dit. ex Fr.; *Nyctalis lycoperdoides* (Pers.) Konr. et Maubl.; *Nyctalis asterophora* Fr.; *Nyctalis agaricoides* (Fr.:Fr.) Bon

ENGLISH NAME(S) powder-cap

NOTES recognized by habitat on mushrooms, small whitish caps which become brown and powdery, and poorly formed gills; *Asterophora* as genus is name for anamorph according to Ainsworth and Bisby but is used in field guides; found at least WA, OR, CA, (Castellano), BC (Paul Kroeger, pers. comm.), Breitenbach & Kranzlin give distribution as North America, Europe, Asia, North Africa

CAP 1-2cm, hemispheric, margin inrolled for a long time; "whitish and floury when young, soon browning and covered with cinnamon colored powder, eventually the entire surface breaking into brown chlamydo spores", (Breitenbach), 1-2(3)cm, spherical with inrolled margin, expanding when old to hemispheric or broadly convex; "at first white to buff and fibrillose to farinose, soon becoming areolate and the fibrillose covering remaining only in patches on the cap and remaining intact along the margin, but disappearing entirely when old, revealing a dull brown powdery mass", (Castellano), 0.5-2cm, nearly spherical; white becoming covered with dense brown spore powder; dry, (Arora combined with Lincoff)

FLESH whitish-cream, (Breitenbach), thin (Arora)

GILLS distant, thickish, sometimes rudimentary or completely lacking; pale whitish, (Breitenbach), often poorly developed, absent in some fruitbodies, when present adnate, distant, narrow, thick, blunt-edged, white to pale gray, (Castellano), attached sometimes forked often malformed and barely present, well-spaced, thick; whitish, (Arora)

STEM 1-3cm x 0.3-0.5cm, cylindric, bent, soon hollow; whitish, brownish when old; cottony, (Breitenbach), 1-3cm x 0.3-1.0cm, central, equal to clubshaped, often curved, stuffed to hollow; white; dull, appressed fibrillose to downy, (Castellano), 1-3cm x 0.3-1cm, stout, more or less equal, stuffed to hollow; white becoming brownish; silky to minutely hairy, (Arora combined with Lincoff)

VEIL absent (Arora)

ODOR farinaceous (Breitenbach)

TASTE farinaceous (Breitenbach)

EDIBILITY unknown (Arora)

HABITAT in gregarious clusters on rotting *Russula* (especially the *R. dissimulans*-*R. nigricans* complex) and *Lactarius* spp., in forests, (Castellano), usually grouped or clustered on dead mushrooms of *Russula* and *Lactarius*, (Breitenbach), in colonies on old mushrooms especially *Russula* and *Lactarius*, (Arora combined with Lincoff)

SPORE DEPOSIT white when obtainable (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores 3.2-5.8 x 2.0-4.2 microns, elliptic, smooth, colorless, also chlamydospores 13-20 x 10-20 microns excluding spines, oval to nearly round, verrucose (warty) to bluntly spiny, light brownish, basidia 4-spored, 14-17 x 5-7 microns, cylindric-ventricose, with basal clamp; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia not seen; cap cuticle not present, completely broken up into chlamydospores, (Breitenbach), spores 5-6 x 3.5-4 microns, elliptic, smooth; cap surface also produces chlamydospores 12-18 microns, round, bumpy or spiny, thick-walled, brownish, (Arora), basidiospores not formed in many fruitbodies; cap cuticle a cutis of loosely interwoven colorless hyphae 3-6 microns wide; clamps present, (Castellano)

NAME ORIGIN means 'like Lycoperdon (puffball)'

SIMILAR *A. parasitica* which has non-powdery, dirty white silky cap and smooth elliptic chlamydospores from well-formed gills

SOURCES Breitenbach(3)*, Castellano(2)*, Lincoff(2)*(as *Asterophora*), Bessette(2)*(as *Asterophora*), Arora (as *Asterophora*), Courtecuisse*, Barron*(as *Nyctalis asterophora*), Castellano(3)*

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales