

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) *Bolbitius vitellinus* (Pers.) Fr. *Epicrisis Systematis Mycologici*: 254. 1838

ENGLISH NAME(S) sunny side up

NOTES features include soft fragile texture, viscid yellow striate cap, rust-colored gills when old, and rusty orange to rusty brown spore deposit; Breitenbach & Kranzlin give the opinion that *Bolbitius reticulatus* (Pers.: Fr.) Rick. with a lilac, reticulate-venose cap, *Bolbitius lacteus* Lange with a white cap, *B. variicolor* Atk., with an olive-yellow to olive-brown, sometimes venose cap, are not separate species but only deviations from the type caused by substrate, age, or weather, especially since the microscopic features do not show any marked differences; Breitenbach & Kranzlin give distribution as North America, Europe, Asia, North Africa

CAP 1.5-7cm when expanded, oval to conical or bell shaped when young, often becoming flat in old age; bright yellow to pale yellow (the center sometimes yellow-orange), but often fading when old or as it dries to whitish, brownish, grayish, etc.; smooth, viscid or slimy when moist, margin striate, at times conspicuously grooved nearly to center, (Arora), 1-5cm, bellshaped at first or convex, then broadly convex, often retaining small central umbo, infrequently flat-convex, rarely becoming depressed; bright lemon chrome or luteous, on expanding retaining the color throughout although more strongly at center, or becoming cinnamon or saffron towards margin; viscid from separable pellicle, margin faintly striate at first but often becoming fisso-sulcate, (Watling)

FLESH thin, soft; yellowish, (Arora)



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GILLS adnate to adnexed or free, close, soft, dissolving somewhat in wet weather; pallid or pale yellow to pale brown, becoming rusty-ochre to cinnamon-brown when old, (Arora), free or almost so, soon separating, thin, papery, rather narrow, at maturity tending to collapse but not autodigesting; straw at first then tinged rust and finally deep rusty tawny, (Watling)

STEM (3)5-12cm x 0.2-0.8(10)cm, equal or thicker below, hollow, very fragile when thin (readily collapsing); whitish to pale yellow; often delicately pruinose or scurfy, (Arora), 3-6cm x 0.2-0.5(0.7)cm, slightly swollen downward, hollow; white or pale lemon yellow or flushed with cap color; minutely flocculose throughout especially toward the top, (Watling)

VEIL absent (Arora)

ODOR indistinct (Watling)

TASTE indistinct (Watling)

EDIBILITY yes, flavorless, (Arora)

HABITAT solitary, scattered or gregarious (or even tufted) on dung, manure, straw, lawns, in tall grass, cultivated ground, etc., (Arora), on dung, straw-bales and piles of rotting vegetable debris, at margins of woods, edges of fields and particularly in farm-yards and gardens, (Watling for Britain)

SPORE DEPOSIT rusty orange to rusty brown (Arora), sienna (an ochre brown) to rust, (Watling)

MICROSCOPIC spores 10-16 x 6-9 microns, elliptic, smooth, truncate from large apical germ pore, (Arora); spores 12-13(15) x 6-7 microns, elliptic in face view, slightly flattened on one side in profile, germ pore large and prominent, sienna in water, rich rusty tawny in alkali; basidia 4-spored, 20-30 x 10-15 microns, colorless, clavate; pleurocystidia rare, when present lageniform, pavement cells prominent, cheilocystidia variable, utriform or lageniform with long or short neck, intermixed with a few colorless inflated cells, 30-50 x 14-20 microns; cap cuticle a hymeniform layer of vesiculose, colorless, smooth, pedicellate cells filled with yellow juice, 25-50 x 10-15 microns embedded in thick, gelatinised layer intermixed with detritus; stem cuticle of cylindric hyphae clothed in groups of colorless, elongate-clavate to lageniform cells; clamp connections not seen, (Watling)

NAME ORIGIN refers to an egg-yolk

SIMILAR variicolor has olivaceous hues, (Watling, but see NOTES)

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

FAMILY Bolbitiaceae of Order Agaricales