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) Cantharellus formosus Corner A Monograph of Cantharelloid Fungi p. 45. 1966

NOTES not a true-gilled species, but has radiating veinlike folds or ridges on underside of cap; this species has frequently been referred to in the past as Cantharellus cibarius, which is not known definitely to occur in the Pacific Northwest except in the variety roseocanus q.v.; features of formosus include yellowish orange firm fleshy lobed cap, decurrent vein-like ridges on spore-bearing surface which is orangish to orangish yellow with a pinkish tinge, yellowish orange stem, and yellowish white spore deposit; formosus is found only in BC, WA, OR, and northwestern CA, CHEMICAL REACTIONS FeSO4 pale green, leaving bright orange ring after evaporation, PDAB bright yellow after 15 minutes, tests done after refrigeration for several days, (Redhead)

CAP 2-14cm, fleshy; brightly colored dull orange yellow to orange, under wet conditions brilliant to soft orange yellow (apricot to orange or saffron (Rayner), "antimony yellow" or "deep chrome"), with a slightly duskier center and largely obscured overl

FLESH whitish to paler than "ivory yellow", except immediately below pigmented surfaces, (Redhead), firm, thick, up to 0.4-0.8cm at stem; yellowish white, (Tylutki)

Michael Beug

Michael Beug

Alvin Funk

GILLS decurrent, consisting of radiating well developed folds (up to 0.2cm deep) tending to fork between the margins, depending on growth conditions either crowded (0.1cm apart), or subdistant (0.2cm apart) and varying from scarcely anastomosing to distinctly intervenose with ladder-like branches, occasionally developing cracks when growth continues afterwards in dry weather; pale orange yellow (Kelly) to saffron (Rayner) or "pale pinkish cinnamon" to "capucine buff" in some areas when moist, to salmon (Rayner) in drier forms or even yellow white to buff on heavily shaded specimens, bruising yellow then ochraceous if fresh and humid, (Redhead), decurrent, forming well-developed radiating veinlike ridges or folds, forked, irregularly dichotomous; yellowish white to pale orange yellow with slight pale yellowish pink tint, especially toward margin; interveined in places, (Tylutki)

STEM 4-8cm x 0.4-2.2cm, equal or narrowing downward, sometimes compressed, sheathed at top by decurrent smooth spore bearing surface extending beyond folds, with sheath occasionally fragmenting into small patches or bands; colored as or slightly paler than cap, "maize yellow" or "buff yellow" to "warm buff", and usually not as dusky, bruising yellow then ochraceous (Kelly), "Capucine yellow" or slightly paler than "buckthorn brown"; nearly bald, more conspicuously fibrillose after handling, (Redhead), up to 5cm long and 0.8-1.6cm wide, cylindric; yellowish white to pale orange yellow, bruising dark orange yellow; furfuraceous to pruinose, (Tylutki)

VEIL none

ODOR none or fragrant of apricots, (Tylutki)

TASTE mild to slightly peppery, (Tylutki)

EDIBILITY choice

HABITAT solitary to gregarious, often in small clusters or slight arcs, on bare and mossy needle beds, sometimes near coarse woody debris, in both second growth and old growth western North American forests, most often under hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla) sometimes mixed with Douglas fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii), Sitka spruce, (Picea sitchensis) and other associates, once under virtually pure Pinus contorta, (Redhead)

SPORE DEPOSIT yellowish white (Redhead), pale yellow (Tylutki)

Steven Vagvolgyi

MICROSCOPIC spores 7.2-9.2 x 4.7-6.1 microns, average 8.1 x 5.3 microns, length/width 1.47-1.6, broadly oval to elliptic or broadly cylindric in face view, slightly inequilateral to broadly cylindrical in side view, smooth, inamyloid, (Redhead); basidia 4-(5)-6-spored, clavate, 86-120 x 8-11.6 microns, sterigmata large, 5-7 microns long, incurved, with the 5th and 6th further from the apex; clamp connections abundant in all tissues, (Redhead), spores 7-10 x 5.5-6.5 microns, elliptic, smooth; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia absent, (Tylutki)

NAME ORIGIN means 'beautiful'

SIMILAR like cibarius var. roseocanus but 1) tends to be smaller and less yellow, 2) lacks the pinkish hoary coating on margin (present on fresh var. roseocanus), 3) has a pinkish tone to the undersurface of the cap which is typically paler than cap (on cibarius var. roseocanus typically undersurface is the most intensely yellow tissue of fruiting body), 4) stains yellow readily (cibarius var. roseocanus merely exhibits darkened areas where damaged, 5) has spores that rarely exceed 9 microns and length/width ratio 1.47-1.6, as opposed to those of cibarius var. roseocanus which often exceed 10 microns, and have length/width ratio 1.72-1.74, (Redhead); like cibarius of Europe but according to Tylutki formosus has stronger orange pigmentation, smaller stature, strongly convex cap at first, and strong orange bruising reaction

SOURCES Redhead(24), Tylutki*, Arora*(1986 - color illustration 178 but not 175 or 177 - as cibarius), Lincoff(2)*(plate 427 - as cibarius), Schalkwijk-Barendsen*(p.165 - as cibarius), Corner

FAMILY Cantharellaceae of Order Cantharellales