

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) *Chroogomphus tomentosus* (Murrill) O.K.Miller
Mycologia 56: 532. 1964; *Gomphidius tomentosus* Murrill
(*Mycologia* 4: 307. 1912 non Bull. Soc. Mycol. Fr. 42: 75. 1926)

ENGLISH NAME(S) woolly pine spike

NOTES distinctive features are overall dull orange to ochraceous color, dry woolly-fibrillose cap, decurrent gills, growth with conifers, and smoky-black spore deposit; very common in Pacific Northwest, reported from at least BC, WA, OR, ID, CA, AZ, Japan

CAP 2-9cm, broadly conical to convex, umbonate or flat; overall pale buffy-orange to bright ochraceous or ochraceous orange, evenly colored, may stain purple when old, fibrils sometimes tinged faintly vinaceous; dry to very slightly viscid, covered with flattened woolly or felty fibrils or fibrillose scales

FLESH firm, yellow-orange to dull orange or pale orange-buff

GILLS decurrent or sometimes adnate, moderately distant, broad in middle, moderately thick, yellow orange to ochraceous or colored like cap but soon smoky umber from spores

STEM 4-18cm x (0.3)0.7-1.5(2), equal or more often narrowing in lower part, with a root-like extension, solid; colored more or less like cap, showing ochraceous-orange color where handled; dry and sparsely fibrillose

VEIL dry, fibrillose, scanty, colored like cap, disappearing or leaving slight hairy remnants on stem near top

ODOR not distinctive (Miller)

TASTE not distinctive (Miller)

EDIBILITY yes, but better dried than fresh, (Arora)

HABITAT on needles or in deep moss under conifers (Miller)

SPORE DEPOSIT smoky-gray to blackish



Eileen Seto

MICROSCOPIC spores 15-25 x 6-8(9) microns, elliptic in face view, somewhat spindle-shaped in side view, smooth, light gray brown in KOH, light to medium ochraceous in Melzer's but becoming darker after several hours, (Miller); basidia 4-spored, 31-48 x 6-11 microns, clavate, colorless in KOH; cystidia on gills with fairly thick walls 2-4 microns at thickest part, occasionally thin-walled, 118-255 x 10-21 microns, cylindrical to fusiform, sometimes with yellow brown granules in KOH, the walls faintly amyloid but yellow as seen in crushed mounts, contents colorless or dingy brown, apex often encrusted, no clamp connections seen on hyphae of fruiting body, the hyphae of mycelium at base of stem with scattered clamp connections, (Miller)

NAME ORIGIN means 'woolly'

SIMILAR like leptocystis, which has grayer cap, somewhat smaller spores, thinner walls on cystidia, and other microscopic differences; like pseudovinicolor which is also dry but is more robust, with convex (never conical or umbonate cap, thick woolly stem, olive tinted spore deposit, and tendency to grow in clumps of 2-4; like ochraceus, similarly colored to tomentosus but smoother without fibrils and somewhat viscid, spores 14-20 x 4.5-7 microns, to vinicolor and rutilus which have viscid caps that are relatively smooth and are variable in color (dull orange, ochraceous, gray, brown, vinaceous red)

SOURCES Miller(1), Arora*, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Ammirati*

FAMILY Gomphidiaceae of Order Boletales



Hannah Nadel