

## 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)** *Coprinus micaceus* (Fr.) Fr.; *Coprinellus micaceus* (Bull.:Fr.) Vilgalys, Hopple & Johnson

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** mica-cap, glistening inky-cap

**NOTES** Section Micacei; *Coprinellus micaceus* is the recently published name based on molecular evidence (Redhead(49)); features include tan to rusty-yellow striate cap which may have fine shiny particles, pallid gills which soon become gray or brownish, then black, slender white stem, mild odor, gregarious growth on wood, and dark brown to black spore deposit; note that other species in this section probably occur in the Pacific Northwest but have not been well studied; common in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere in North America, description derived from Arora except where noted; Breitenbach & Kranzlin give distribution as North America, Europe, Asia, North Africa, Australia

**CAP** 1.5-5cm when expanded, 2-4cm high when young, at first oval, soon bell-shaped, then expanding to convex; tan to yellow-brown to ochre, buff, fulvous, or cinnamon-brown (margin often paler) becoming grayer when old; surface sprinkled at first with minute glistening whitish particles which often disappear when old, striate at least half way to center, margin usually tattered or split at maturity

**FLESH** thin, soft; pallid or white

**GILLS** crowded, adnate to adnexed or free; pallid soon becoming gray or brownish, finally black, deliquescing partly or completely

**STEM** 3-8(12)cm x 0.2-0.6cm, more or less equal, fragile, hollow, smooth, white or discoloring buff

**VEIL** sometimes slight basal ring presumably formed by universal veil as partial veil absent or rudimentary

**ODOR** none (Phillips, Breitenbach)

**TASTE** mild, insipid, (Breitenbach)

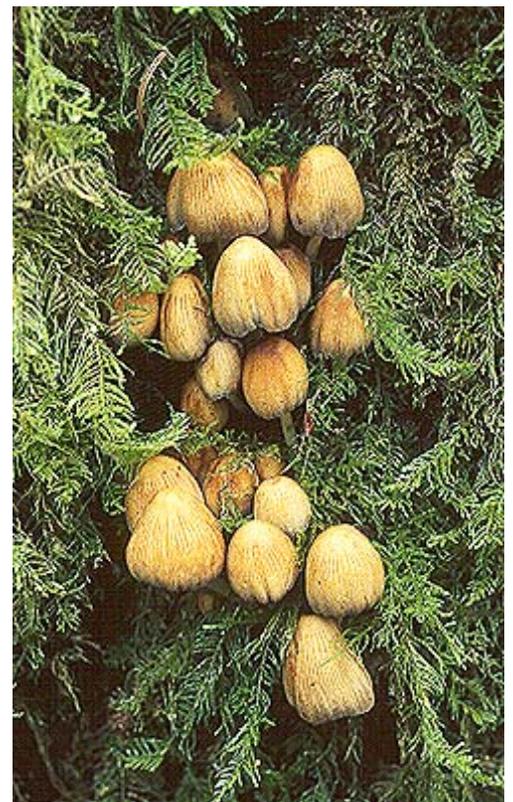
**EDIBILITY** yes

**HABITAT** in clusters on wood or woody debris, around stumps on roots and buried wood

**SPORE DEPOSIT** dark brown to black



Taylor F Lockwood



Hannah Nadel

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 7-11 x 4-6 microns, elliptic, smooth, often flattened somewhat, (Arora), spores 6.5-9 x 3.9-5 x 4.9-6.3 microns, +/- mitre-shaped in frontal view, almond-shaped to fusiform (spindle-shaped) in side view, smooth, dark brown, truncate from a central germ pore; basidia 4-spored, 22-31 x 6-10 microns, clavate, without basal clamp; pleurocystidia 70-100 x 50-70 microns, vesicular to elliptic, cheilocystidia 20-90 x 20-75 microns, vesicular to clavate; veil on the cap surface of spherical cells, in part brownish, encrusted or thick-walled, only occasional septa with clamps, (Breitenbach)

**NAME ORIGIN** from 'mica', Latin for "crumb"

**SIMILAR** somewhat like smaller disseminatus but not translucent; like atramentarius but atramentarius is fleshier with thicker stem, grayish, with gills turning lavender-gray then black

**SOURCES** Arora\*, Phillips\*, Lincoff(2)\*, Lincoff(1)\*, Ammirati\*, Kibby\*, Courtecuisse\*, Bessette(2)\*, Barron\*, Redhead(49), Breitenbach(4)\*

**FAMILY** Coprinaceae of Order Agaricales



Norman Evans



Boleslaw Kuznik