

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) *Cortinarius elegantior* Fr. var. *americanus* Moser & McKnight Mycotaxon 55: 318. 1995

NOTES Subgenus *Phlegmacium*; features include glutinous yellow cap which becomes brown, pale yellow gills with slight olivaceous tint, dry yellowish stem with marginate bulb and sulfur universal veil remnants, found in WY and probably the Pacific Northwest, **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** vapor of ammonia gives pink color in bulb; under UV light, flesh is pink in cap and bulb, yellowish in stem, veil and margin of cap violaceous pink

CAP 5-12cm, hemispheric at first, then strongly convex with inrolled margin, later flat, sometimes wavy; relatively pale yellow in young stages due to the yellow veil, center more yellow ochre, disc finally with brownish tints, when old the brown colors more dominating over entire surface but sometimes in more or less irregular patches, (but lacking veil remnants in mature caps which are typical for var. *elegantior*); very glutinous when wet

FLESH pale yellowish, becoming brown where eaten by larvae, becoming darker in base of stem, often almost orange yellow with age (but never rhubarb colored as in var. *elegantior*)

GILLS more or less emarginate, crowded, about 120 reach stem, (1)3(5) tiers of subgills, 0.6-1.1cm broad; pale yellow with slight olivaceous hue, brown when old, often with rusty brown spots

STEM 4-7cm x 1.8-3.0cm, with marginate bulb 2.5-4.0cm wide; at first pale yellowish, later becoming brass yellow, some parts also turning brown, the margin of the bulb fringed by sulfur yellow veil; presumably dry

VEIL sulfur yellow universal veil

ODOR not distinctive

TASTE mild

HABITAT under conifers

SPORE DEPOSIT dark rust brown

MICROSCOPIC spores (10)12.3-14.3(15.3) x 7-9.3 microns, almond to lemon-shaped, strongly verrucose; basidia (2-)4-spored, 42-45 x 9-9.5 microns, with basal clamp connections; cheilocystidia occasional, 35-50 x 6-12 microns, irregular, clavate to subcapitate, some with yellow content; hyphae of the gelatinous layer of the cap 2-4 microns wide, radially arranged, colorless, with clamp connections, hyphae of the epicutis 6-9 microns wide, walls yellowish in KOH, not encrusted; hyphae of cortina 4-5 microns wide, with clamp connections

NAME ORIGIN means 'more fine, more choice'

SIMILAR like var. *elegantior* of Europe by var. *americanus* differs in having yellow veil color, paler more yellow cap color lacking olivaceous tinges, colors of flesh which are yellowish but never deep rhubarb color in the lower part of the stem, and spores which are smaller (12.8-15.2 x 7.3-8.3 for var. *elegantior*); like *fulmineus* which has smaller spores

SOURCES Moser(2)

FAMILY Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales