

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 orichalceus* (Batsch) Fr. *Epicr. Syst. Mycol.* p.267. 1838

ENGLISH NAME(S) copper-red webcap

NOTES subgenus *Phlegmacium*, *orichalceus* in *scaurus* group, features include viscid cap that is variable in color but usually reddish brown with greenish margin, whitish flesh with greenish tinges, greenish gills, whitish stem with green tones and a reddis

CAP 5-8(9)cm, convex-expanded, obtuse to flattened, margin involute at first; "ecru-olive" to "olive-ochre", the disk laved and spotted by "Hay's russet", at length entirely "Hay's russet" except the darker-olivaceous margin; very viscid, at length spotted on center by drying gluten, margin tomentose-silky, (Kauffman), 5-8cm, blood red, red-brown, copper-red, margin gray-green, (Moser), 5-10cm, very variable in color, may be pale olive gray becoming liver brown, yellow becoming dull cinnamon brown, or bright orange-brown with a bright yellow margin, (PNW keys), 4-10cm, convex then flattened, coppery red or tawny brick-colored, darker at disc with a greenish or blue-green area at margin, eventually entirely reddish tawny; viscid in damp weather, smooth, (Lincoff), brick red-brown with greenish margin (Kernaghan)

FLESH very thick; white, at length tinted pale-olivaceous, (Kauffman), white, outer layer greenish (Moser), whitish tinged with greenish-yellow toward margin, (Lincoff), white with blue, then green suffusing pigments (Kernaghan), greenish, sometimes pinkish under cap (Courtecuisse)

GILLS at first adnate, then slightly sinuate, crowded, moderately broad, subventricose; at first "dark-olive-buff" then darker, "Isabella-color", (Kauffman), yellow, greenish, old olive, (Moser), yellow or bright green (PNW keys), emarginate, crowded, broad; greenish yellow then rusty olive, with wavy edge, (Lincoff), at first yellow green, quickly turning blue after collection, (Kernaghan)

STEM 5-6(8)cm x 2-2.5cm, stout, rigid, solid and compact inside; equal above the marginate, subdepressed, oblique bulb; whitish; at first covered by the obscure slightly colored remnants of the universal veil, (Kauffman), yellow-greenish, greenish (Moser), pale olive green or pale yellow, without any bluish or purplish colors even in young specimens, (PNW Keys), 4-8cm x 1.5-2cm, greenish yellow, ending at base with reddish-tinged marginate bulb; fibrillose, (Lincoff), white with green tones and a reddening marginate base (Kernaghan)

VEIL stem at first covered by the obscure slightly colored remnants of the universal veil, (Kauffman), cobwebby, greenish-yellow, (Lincoff), Kernaghan says white cortina

ODOR none (Kauffman), none (Lincoff)

TASTE slightly disagreeable (Kauffman), sweet (Lincoff)

EDIBILITY uncertain (Lincoff)

HABITAT under conifers, in high mountains, 2400 to 3000 meters, (Kauffman), in conifer woods in mountains, (Lincoff), coniferous and mixed woods, deciduous woods, on chalk, (Moser)

SPORE DEPOSIT rust brown (Lincoff)

MICROSCOPIC spores 10-12(13) x 6-6.5(7), almond-shaped, tuberculate, (Kauffman), spores 9-11 x 5-6.5 microns, somewhat almond-shaped, rusty brown in KOH, with a distinctly wrinkled exospore; basidia 4-spored, colorless or with a faint purplish tinge in KOH; hymenium filled with basidia-like bodies having a fuscous-purplish opaque amorphous content, cheilocystidia not differentiated, (Smith for var. olympiana), spores 12-13 x 6-7 microns (Moser), spores 11-13 x 6.5-7 microns, elliptic, warty, (Lincoff), spores 9.8-11.6 x 5.5-7.0(7.4) microns, amygdaliform (almond-shaped) to citriniform (lemon-shaped), (Kernaghan)

NAME ORIGIN means "copper-colored"

SIMILAR like *scarius* and *herpeticus* which have stem base that turn red with Lugol's iodine or Melzer's reagent; like *prasinus* Fr. sensu Konr. & Maubl. which according to Moser(1) has the entire fruit body +/- grass to leek green, with cap center brown or brown-spotted or fibered and shorter spores at 10-12 x 6-7 microns, Smith(22) differentiates the dried specimens of *C. orichalceus* Fr. which are dark purplish red in all parts including basal mycelium from the dried specimens of *C. prasinus* Fr. which are "clove brown" on the disk, "citrine-drab" on the margin, and have white mycelium

SOURCES Kauffman(3), Moser(1), PNW keys, Lincoff(1)*, Courtecuisse*, McKnight*, Kernaghan, Smith(12)

FAMILY Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales