

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 phoeniceus* var. *occidentalis* Smith Contr. from Univ. Mich. Herbarium No. 2. p.30. 1939; *Dermocybe phoenicea* var. *occidentalis* (Smith) Ammirati

ENGLISH NAME(S) western red-capped *Cortinarius*

NOTES subgenus *Dermocybe*; features include maroon-red to reddish-brown dry cap, deep red gills, and yellowish dry stem; description derived from Ammirati(7) except where noted; *Cortinarius fervidus* is related or the same species, does not fluoresce when subjected to ultraviolet light, is rare and possibly with larch in the North Cascades, but needs more work (Michelle Seidl pers. comm.); *phoeniceus* var. *occidentalis* common in the Pacific Northwest, found at least in BC, WA, OR, CA

CAP 3-8cm, broadly convex, becoming expanded, more or less umbonate, margin usually decurved; evenly dark red to rich red or dark mahogany red; moist to dry, innately silky becoming appressed fibrillose at maturity, often cracking radially when old

FLESH rather thin, firm; buff, with reddish tints near cap surface, olive-brownish in cap near stem, light yellowish orange in stem becoming sordid brown when old

GILLS adnate to adnexed or (Arora) notched, subdistant to distant or appearing close in small caps, broad, equal; deep purplish red to deep red, sometimes with brighter red edges, with a changeable or metallic sheen when viewed at different angles, becoming more or less rusty when old

STEM 4-11cm x 0.6-1.5(3.0)cm, equal or sometimes clubshaped to ventricose (thicker in middle), evenly yellow to dull yellow or dull ochraceous; moist to dry, with a coating of yellowish fibrils, mycelium around base and in soil ochraceous to ochre-yellow to tinged reddish to vinaceous red

VEIL cortina scanty, dull yellow, light ochraceous or yellow-buff, (Ammirati(7)), cortina scanty, yellowish, disappearing or leaving a few hairs on upper stem (Arora)

ODOR none or not distinctive (Ammirati(7)), mild or slightly radishlike (Arora)

TASTE none or not distinctive

EDIBILITY not recommended

HABITAT caespitose (tufted) to gregarious or scattered under conifers or in mixed woods

SPORE DEPOSIT rusty-brown (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores(6)6.5-8(9) x 4-5(5.5) microns, elliptic in face view and side view, minutely rough (verrucose), pale brownish with darker brown ornamentation; basidia 4-spored, 24-31 x 6.5-7.5 microns, clavate, thin-walled, colorless or reddish to pinkish, some containing colorless or reddish granules; pleurocystidia absent, cheilocystidia apparently absent; clamp connections present throughout fruiting body

NAME ORIGIN 'phonicus' means 'purple-red'; 'occidentalis' means 'western'

SIMILAR *semisanguineus* which has yellow-brown cap

SOURCES Ammirati(7) (as *Dermocybe*), Arora, Ammirati*, Smith(15)

FAMILY Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales