

## 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 vibratilis (Fries) Fries

**NOTES** subgenus Myxacium; features include small size, viscid tawny cap with paler margin, viscid white stem, and bitter flesh and cap slime; found at least BC, WA, ID

**CAP** 2-5cm, convex, obtuse, gibbous; hygrophanous, yellow, ocher-yellow to fulvous-yellow, paler when dry; glutinous, bald, even, (Kauffman), 1.5-5cm, broadly bell-shaped to convex to nearly flat; yellowish to tawny, fulvous, orange-brown or yellow-orange or brown, fading as it ages or dries (sometimes to pale tan); smooth, viscid or slimy when moist, (Arora), 2-5cm, hemispherical then convex to domed; slightly hygrophanous, orange, lighter when dry, darker when wet; glutinous, (Phillips), cap edge whitish from the remains of the veil (Breitenbach)

**FLESH** thin except at disc, soft; white or whitish, (Kauffman(3)), whitish (Arora), whitish or with a touch of ochre (Phillips)

**GILLS** adnate to slightly subdecurrent or "submarginate", close, rather narrow, thin; pallid to pale-ochraceous, then pale-ochraceous-cinnamon, (Kauffman), notched to adnate or slightly decurrent; whitish becoming dull ochre or tawny then cinnamon-brown, (Arora), adnate; pallid reddish ochre then more cinnamon, (Phillips)

**STEM** 3-7cm x 0.4-1.0cm, variable in length, subclavate (somewhat clubshaped) or tapering either way, stuffed, soft; pure-white; often viscid only at the base, clothed when young by a glutinous colorless universal veil, soon drying, (Kauffman), 3-7cm x 0.3-1.0cm, usually club-shaped below but sometimes equal; white; viscid or slimy when moist, but when old sometimes viscid only at base, smooth or nearly so, (Arora), 4-7cm x 0.4-1.0cm, often swollen at base, but sometimes tapering and appearing rootlike; white discoloring orangy in places, sometimes showing a right zone, (Phillips)

**VEIL** cortina scanty, sometimes leaving a few hairs on stem, universal veil slimy, colorless, (Arora)

**ODOR** mild (Arora)



Ben Woo

**TASTE** intensely bitter (Kauffman), bitter, especially cap surface, which can usually be detected by pressing your tongue to the cap surface, (Arora)

**EDIBILITY** no, due to taste (Arora)

**HABITAT** humus in rich woods, under hardwoods and conifers, (Kauffman), usually with conifers, but also with manzanita, huckleberry, madrone, (Arora), in coniferous and deciduous woods, (Phillips)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** rusty brown (Arora, Phillips)

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 6-7.5 x 4-5 microns, elliptic, almost smooth, (Kauffman), spores 7-9 x 4-5 microns, elliptic, rough, (Arora), spores 6-8.4 x 4-5 microns, elliptic, rough, (Phillips), no pleurocystidia, marginal cells 14-28 x 3.5-7 microns, cylindric to clavate, (Breitenbach)

**SIMILAR** *C. pluvius* is smaller with paler cap, less bitter flesh, stem that is not white but more ocher-colored, and preference for birch, (Breitenbach); *C. pluviorum* is smaller with iodoform odor, (Hansen) and stem that is only sticky when damp as opposed to heavily viscid when damp, (Moser); *C. pluvialis* is smaller with paler cap, (Moser), *C. crystallinus* has very pale ocher cap and stem that is only sticky when damp as opposed to heavily viscid when damp, (Moser)

**SOURCES** Kauffman(3), Arora\*, Phillips\*, Courtecuisse\*, Ammirati(5), Breitenbach(5)\*

**FAMILY** Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales