

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) *Cystoderma amianthinum* (Fr.) Fayod Ann. Sci. Nat. Ser. 7, 9: 351. 1889; *Lepiota amianthina* Karsten; *Armillaria amianthina* Kauffman

ENGLISH NAME(S) unspotted *Cystoderma*

NOTES recognized by ochre color, granulose cap and stem, fragile veil which may leave slight ring on stem, and amyloid spores; Breheret et al. suggest that the compound responsible for the "musty-earthy" or "green-corn" odor, is geosmin, a sesquiterpenoid compound; found at least BC (Redhead(5)), WA (frequent on foray lists), OR (Smith), CA (Arora), AK (Miller), Smith says "not infrequently collected in our northern and western states", Lincoff says "throughout North America", also Europe, **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** cap surface stains rusty-brown in KOH (Bessette)

CAP 2-5cm, bell-shaped or somewhat conical becoming convex or umbonate to nearly flat; "tawny-ochre to ochre-brown, ochre-buff, or yellowish", a white form occurs; dry, prominently wrinkled radially in one variety (*rugosoreticulatum*), covered with mealy

FLESH thin (Arora), thin except in disc; white or whitish, in stem, pith is pallid, (Smith)

GILLS adnexed to adnate, crowded; "white or creamy or tinged yellow-orange", (Arora), squarely adnate or ascending at first, but often developing a tooth and becoming somewhat sinuate, close to crowded, 2 tiers of subgills, moderately broad, 0.25-0.35cm broad; white or whitish at first but usually pale yellowish at maturity, sometimes distinctly yellowish ("warm buff"); edges even, (Smith)



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STEM 2.5-7cm x 0.3-0.8cm, equal or slightly enlarged in lower part; whitish above the veil, cap-colored in lower part; smooth above the veil, sheathed with granules or granulose scales in lower part, (Arora), 3-6cm x 0.3-0.7cm, equal or widening very slightly downward, solid but often becoming hollow; cap colored up to ring which is rarely well formed, pallid to yellowish above ring; sheathed with granulose covering up to ring, pruinose above ring, base with adherent white mycelium, (Smith)

VEIL fragile, ring slight on stem or often disappearing, (Arora), median to superior ring rarely well formed, when present tawny and granulose on underside, pallid on upper side, (Smith)

ODOR mild or strongly pungent, (Arora), not distinctive (Smith), in var. *rugosoreticulatum* pungent, (Lincoff(2)), often like freshly husked green corn (Ammirati)

TASTE not distinctive (Smith)

EDIBILITY may be edible but not recommended because easy to confuse with poisonous species, e.g. *Lepiota castanea*, (Arora)

HABITAT solitary, scattered or in groups under conifers, especially in moss, (Arora), scattered to gregarious, usually among mosses and debris on forest floor under conifers, usually during late summer and fall, (Smith)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores 4-7 x 3-4 microns, elliptic, smooth, amyloid, (Arora), spores 5.5-6.5 x 3-3.5 microns, narrowly elliptic, smooth, amyloid; basidia -spored, 24-28 x 6-7 microns, clavate; pleurocystidia not seen, cheilocystidia absent to very rare, 26-34 x 5-7 microns, narrowly ventricose with obtuse apices; clamp connections present on stem hyphae, (Smith), spores amyloid, but sometimes very weakly amyloid, (Breitenbach)

NAME ORIGIN amianthinum means "uncontaminated or pure" or 'unspotted': the amianth is a stone that can be separated into threads and spun, and is inconsumable by fire

SIMILAR like *granulosum* which has a reddish brown to tawny, non-wrinkled cap and smaller inamyloid spores (*amianthinum* can be non-wrinkled, can be reddish brown and spores can be only weakly amyloid); like *terrei* which has reddish brown non-wrinkled cap and inamyloid spores and cheilocystidia; like *fallax* which has persistent ring

SOURCES Arora, Lincoff(1)*, Lincoff(2)*(var. *rugosoreticulatum*), Ammirati*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Courtecuisse*, Bessette(2)*, Barron*, Breheret(1), Breitenbach(4)*(as *amiantinum*), Miller(9)

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales