

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) *Galerina autumnalis* (Peck) Smith & Singer A Monograph on Genus *Galerina* Earle p.246. 1964; *Gymnopilus autumnalis* (Peck) Murrill; *Pholiota autumnalis* (Peck) Peck

ENGLISH NAME(S) deadly *Galerina*

NOTES distinguishing characteristics are small size, viscid brown striate cap that fades to tan or yellowish, thin stem, veil which usually forms thin whitish superior ring, growth on wood or buried wood, and rusty-brown spore deposit; Smith & Singer describe also a variety occurring at least in WA, var. *angusticystis* that has acute cystidia with narrow necks (these also found in *G. marginata*), smoother spores, and fruiting bodies that remind one of *Galerina unicolor*; *G. autumnalis* found commonly in Pacific Northwest, not uncommon throughout the US and Canada, also England, Finland

CAP 1-4(6.5)cm, broad, convex becoming nearly flat or slightly umbonate; dark brown to yellow-brown or tawny, fading to tan or yellowish as it dries; smooth, viscid when moist, margin translucent-striate when moist, (Arora), 1-6.5cm, convex to broadly convex, soon expanding with age to flat, often with an elevated and wavy margin and with a low broad umbo; hygrophorous, dull yellowish brown to orangish brown to cinnamon or reddish cinnamon brown when moist, fading to dingy yellowish in drying; slightly viscid to viscid when moist from a gelatinous pellicle, sometimes separable, margin translucent-striate when moist, (Stamets), 2.5-6.5cm, convex then flat or with a slightly obtuse umbo; "buckthorn brown" to "ochraceous tawny", fading to "warm buff" or paler (yellow), disc at times remaining darker; viscid, bald, margin translucent-striate when moist, (Smith)

FLESH thin, watery brown, (Arora), relatively thin at margin, and thicker toward the disc, (Stamets), rather thick on disc, tapering gradually; watery brown fading to pale buff, (Smith)



Ben Woo



Michael Beug

GILLS slightly decurrent to adnexed but often seceding, close, yellowish to pale brown becoming rusty-brown or brown, (Arora), adnate to sinuate to uncinata, sometimes seceding, close to subdistant, moderately broad; golden yellowish brown to rusty brown, becoming dull cinnamon to nearly colored as cap at maturity, (Stamets), bluntly adnate or with a slight decurrent tooth but often seceding, equal, moderately close and broad, about 0.5cm; colored as cap at first, darker and more ferruginous at maturity, (Smith)

STEM 2-10cm x 0.3-0.6(1.0)cm, equal or somewhat thicker below, hollow, pallid to brownish, often darker below when old; dry, fibrillose below the veil, base often with white mycelial strands, (Arora), 2.0-6.0cm x (3)4-8cm, equal to slightly enlarged at base, hollow; grayish brown overall and darkening from base upwards; with fibrillose patches, becoming smooth when old, and often longitudinally striate, (Stamets), (3.0)5.0-9.0cm x (0.3)0.4-0.8cm, equal to subclavate (somewhat clubshaped), hollow; above the base coated grayish with a thin fleeting layer of appressed fibrils, somewhat longitudinally striate, with a thin apical, fleeting, almost fibrillose ring, practically bald above ring to somewhat pruinose, typically darkening over lower part when old, (Smith)

VEIL fibrillose or somewhat membranous, usually forming a thin, superior, white ring on stem which is subsequently darkened by falling spores or may disappear when old, (Arora), partial veil thinly membranous, leaving a small, fragile membranous ring that soon deteriorates into a fairly persistent ring zone of fibrils, usually dusted with rusty brown spores at maturity, (Stamets), thin apical, fleeting, almost fibrillose ring, (Smith)

ODOR mild or slightly farinaceous (Arora) slightly farinaceous when crushed, (Smith), without special odor or with slight odor of cucumber (Ammirati)

TASTE mild to farinaceous, (Smith) may have slight taste of cucumber (Ammirati)

EDIBILITY deadly because of amanita toxins (Ammirati)

HABITAT scattered to gregarious or tufted on rotting wood and debris of hardwoods and conifers, (Arora), scattered to gregarious or cespitose (tufted), primarily on decayed conifer and hardwood logs, woody debris, wood chips, bark mulch, or in newly laid lawns, (Stamets), scattered to subcespitose (somewhat tufted) on decaying hardwood and conifer logs, stumps etc., (Smith)

SPORE DEPOSIT rusty brown (Arora, Stamets)



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MICROSCOPIC spores 8-11 x 5-6.5 microns, elliptic, roughened and/or wrinkled, (Arora), spores 8-11 x 5-6.5 microns, elliptic, roughened with a lens-shaped depression near apices, (Stamets), spores 8.5-10(10.5) x 5-6.5 microns, ovate in face view and inequilateral in profile, with a wrinkled exosporium, slight suprahilar depression, dark tawny to russet as revived in KOH; basidia 4-spored, 24-26 x 7-8 microns, projecting half their length in sporulating, subcylindric; pleurocystidia abundant to scattered, 40-65 x 9-12 microns, thin-walled, fusoid-ventricose (spindle-shaped - wider in middle) with greatly elongated necks and slightly enlarged to obtuse tops, colorless in KOH, cheilocystidia abundant to scattered or rare but gill edges not completely sterile, similar to pleurocystidia but usually smaller, clamp connections present, (Smith)

NAME ORIGIN means 'autumn'

SIMILAR marginata which has a moist but not viscid cap; venenata which grows on lawns (or according to Lincoff sometimes on buried wood), and according to Smith(2) has a different cap cuticle (moist rather than viscid), different shape of apex of cystidia, and different habitat; paludosa which also has superior white ring but has long thin stem and grows in bogs

SOURCES Smith(2), Arora*, Stamets*, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Ammirati*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Kibby*, Bessette(2)*, Barron*

FAMILY Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales