

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) *Hygrocybe acutoconica* (Clements) Singer;
Hygrophorus acutoconicus (Clements) A.H.Sm.; *Hygrocybe langii*
Kuehner; *Hygrophorus langii* Dodge; *Hygrocybe constans* Lange;
Hydrocybe californica Murrill; *Hygrophorus ravenelii* sensu Coker;
Hygrocybe subruber Murrill; *Hygrophorus subruber* Murrill;
Hygrophorus rickenii Maire

ENGLISH NAME(S) a cute conic waxy-cap, sharply conic waxy-cap

NOTES distinguished by persistently pointed umbo, bright yellow to orange cap, adnexed to free yellow gills, and absence of blackening reaction; Breitenbach & Kranzlin give *Hygrocybe crocea* Bres. and *Hygrocybe langei* Kuehner as synonyms of *Hygrocybe persistens* (Britz.)Britz.; var. *microspora* described by Hesler and Smith from TN has smaller spores; type variety found at least ID but probably more widespread in Pacific Northwest, also FL, MI, MT, NC, NE, TE, TN, WY, Isle of Rhum

CAP 2-7(10)cm, bluntly or acutely conical when young, sometimes expanding when old but usually retaining pointed umbo; bright yellow to yellow-orange or orange (the orange usually toward center); smooth, viscid or slimy, (Arora), 2-10cm, obtusely to sharply conic when young, soon bellshaped or the margin spreading or upturned; "waxy yellow", "cadmium yellow", "ochraceous buff", "ochraceous orange" to "rufous", scarcely fading; viscid or glutinous, bald, splitting radially, margin striatulate (finely striate) when wet, even when dry, (Hesler), if a touch of red occurs it is on tip or margin of cap, (Schalkwijk-Barendsen)

FLESH thin, soft, waxy; yellow, (Arora), thin on margin, thickish at center, soft; yellow, (Hesler)

GILLS adnexed to free, thick, soft, broad, waxy; yellow, never blackening, (Arora), free or narrowly adnexed, ascending, close becoming subdistant, moderately broad and ventricose (broader in middle); yellow; edges sometimes eroded, faces wrinkled, (Hesler)



Boleslaw Kuznik

STEM 5-8(12)cm x 0.3-0.6(1.0)cm, equal or thicker below, easily splitting; yellow to yellow-orange, but usually white at base, not blackening when handled, but base may bruise or age grayish to nearly black; smooth, moist or slightly viscid, usually longitudinally striate and/or twisted, (Arora), 6-8(12)cm x 0.3-0.6(1.2)cm, equal or clubshaped to wider in lower part, round in cross-section or flattened, easily splitting; colored as cap, paler or white at base, not blackening when wounded but the base usually blackening when old; lubricous at times but not truly viscid, fibrillose to bald, striate, sometimes twisted-striate, (Hesler)

VEIL absent (Arora)

ODOR mild (Hesler)

TASTE mild (Hesler)

EDIBILITY harmless but flavorless (Arora)

HABITAT scattered to gregarious on ground in woods or under trees, (Arora), single to scattered on soil and humus, under hardwoods, conifers, or in mixed woods, April - January, (Hesler)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Arora, Hesler)

MICROSCOPIC spores 9-15 x 5-9 microns, elliptic, smooth gill tissue parallel, (Arora), spores 9-15 x 5-9 microns, 7-9(10) x 5-6 microns for variety microspora, elliptic, some irregular or constricted, smooth, pale yellow in Melzer's; basidia 1-, 2-, 3-, and 4-spored, 38-60 x 7-12 microns, pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia none; gill tissue parallel, hyphae 5-20 microns broad; clamp connections present, (Hesler)

NAME ORIGIN means 'sharp conic'

SIMILAR like conica but yellow and orange, yellow gills, and does not blacken (though base may); like cuspidata which tends to be smaller and is brighter red at first and fruits in spring (May to August rather than April to January) but herbarium specimens are indistinguishable unless redness of cuspidata preserved in drying

SOURCES Hesler* (as *Hygrophorus*), Arora*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Barron*

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales