

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 coccinea* (Fr.) Kummer; *Hygrophorus coccineus* (Fr.) Fr. sensu Hesler & Smith

ENGLISH NAME(S) righteous red waxy-cap, scarlet waxy-cap, scarlet hood

NOTES characterized by bright red dry or tacky cap, reddish to orange or peachy gills, and non-viscid stem which is usually red to reddish-orange with yellow or whitish base; used by Hesler & Smith in the sense of Ricken because the latter emphasized th

CAP 1.5-4(6)cm, obtusely conical or convex becoming flat or slightly umbonate; deep red, blood red or bright red when fresh, fading somewhat when old or developing paler streaks or areas; smooth, dry or tacky, (Arora), 2-5cm, obtusely conic with incurved margin when young, obtusely umbonate, with a spreading margin when old; "Nopal red" to "spectrum red", fading somewhat; moist or sublubricous to subviscid, smooth, bald, margin may be faintly striatulate when moist, (Hesler)

FLESH thin, waxy; reddish to orange, (Arora), waxy, fragile, reddish to orange, (Hesler)

GILLS adnate to adnexed or free, broad, thick, soft, waxy; reddish to orange or peachy, or red with yellow edges, (Arora), "broadly adnate to adnexed, often with decurrent tooth", close to subdistant, broad, thickish, interveined; orange-red to yellowish orange, pallid yellowish when dried; edges even, (Hesler)

STEM 3-7(10)cm x 0.3-0.8cm, equal, hollow; usually red to reddish-orange with a yellow base (but base sometimes appearing whitish from mycelium); smooth, not viscid, typically not fibrillose-striate, (Arora), 3-7cm x 0.3-0.8cm, equal, fragile, hollow; colored as cap in upper part or throughout, soon becoming yellowish near base which is sometimes whitish from a coat of mycelium; moist, not viscid, bald, glistening, uneven, (Hesler)

VEIL absent

ODOR none (Hesler)

TASTE mild (Hesler)

EDIBILITY said to be edible but easily confused with *H. punicea* (Arora)



Boleslaw Kuznik



Alvin Funk

HABITAT solitary, scattered or in small groups in woods and other wet places, in England it grows mainly in open fields, (Arora), gregarious on soil in deciduous, coniferous, and mixed woods, (Hesler)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores 7-10.5 x 4-5 microns, elliptic, smooth, (Arora); spores 7-10.5 x 4-5 microns, elliptic, smooth, inamyloid; basidia 4-spored, 43-54 x 6-8 microns; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia not differentiated; gill tissue parallel; clamp connections on hyphae of cuticle, gill trama, and subhymenium, (Hesler), spores 7.1-10.2 x 4.1-5.6 microns, (Largent)

NAME ORIGIN means 'red like a berry' or 'scarlet'

SIMILAR like punicea which according to Arora is larger and more robust with distinctly viscid cap when moist, having narrowly (rather than broadly) adnate gills, and most often having a yellow to orange fibrillose-striate stem with a whitish base rather than a red stem with a yellow to orange base, Hesler & Smith indicate that punicea is much commoner and microscopically has a well developed pellicle, (no distinct gelatinous pellicle in coccinea, although it may feel slightly viscid when moist), they also say the base of the stem may be white or yellow in punicea and is usually orange in coccinea although the orange may be covered by white mycelium in moist conditions, they do not find spore size differs significantly); like miniata but redder and doesn't fade as drastically, and cap is different size and shape

SOURCES Hesler* (as Hygrophorus), Arora*, Lincoff(2)* (as Hygrophorus), Courtecuisse*, Bessette(2)* (as Hygrophorus), Barron*, PNW keys(as Hygrophorus), Breitenbach(3)*

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales



Hannah Nadel