

## 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 conica* (Scop:Fr) Kummer Fuhr. in Pilzk. p. 111. 1871; *Hygrophorus conicus* (Fr.) Fr.; *Hydrocybe conica* (Fr.) Karsten; *Hygrocybe pseudoconica* Lange; *Godfrinia conica* (Fr.) Maire

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** blackening waxy-cap, conic waxcap

**NOTES** identified by red to yellow, dry to moist or slightly viscid conical cap, whitish or yellow tinged gills that are adnexed or free, dry to moist or slightly viscid stem that is red to yellow or pallid, and tendency of all parts to blacken when handled; common and found in BC, WA, OR, ID, also at least NS, ON, PQ, CA, CO, FL, ME, MD, MA, MI, NC, NJ, NM, PA, TN, TE, UT, VA, Belgium, Denmark, France, Japan, Netherlands

**CAP** 1-5(12)cm, bluntly to sharply conical, expanding when old but usually pointed umbo, margin sometimes uplifted when old; sometimes red but more often orange, yellow, or olive-yellow, blackening when old or upon handling; smooth, dry to moist or slight

**FLESH** thin, waxy; becoming black when old, (Arora), thin, very fragile; colored as surface, blackening, (Hesler)

**GILLS** adnexed or free, thick, broad, soft, waxy; usually whitish but sometimes tinged yellow, soon becoming grayish, and finally black, (Arora), nearly free, close, broad, broader in middle; nearly white at first, becoming grayish olivaceous, pale yellowish orange or olive yellow ("orange buff", "sulphur yellow", "olive-ocher"), black when bruised or when old; edges undulate to serrate or eroded, (Hesler), nearly free, close, broad; white or pale, becoming yellow, pinkish-yellow, yellow, or olive-orange, bruising black, (Lincoff(2))



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**STEM** (2)4-20cm x 0.3-1(1.5)cm, equal, not viscid or only slightly so, hollow when old and easily splitting; pallid to yellow, olive-yellow, orange, or red, with a whitish to gray base, but turning gray or black when handled or when old; often longitudinally striate and twisted, (Arora), (2)6-11(18)cm x 0.5-1.0(1.5)cm, equal, straight, fragile, splitting, hollow; base whitish, remainder dark red, orange, yellow or sordid olive-yellow, becoming black when old or where bruised; moist or dry, not viscid, bald or with appressed fibrils, often longitudinally striate and twisted, (Hesler)

**VEIL** absent (Arora)

**ODOR** not distinctive (Hesler)

**TASTE** not distinctive (Hesler)

**EDIBILITY** not recommended, possibly poisonous, (Arora)

**HABITAT** solitary to scattered or gregarious on ground in damp places (usually in woods), (Arora), gregarious or singly, (Hesler)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** white (Arora, Hesler)

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 8-14 x 5-7.5 microns, elliptic, smooth gill trama parallel, (Arora), spores (8)9-12(14) x (5)5.5-6.5(7.5) microns, subelliptic to elliptic, often irregular in shape, smooth, yellow in Melzer's (inamyloid); basidia 1-, 2-, 3-, or 4-spo

**NAME ORIGIN** means 'conic'

**SIMILAR** like *singeri* which has cap and stem distinctly viscid; like *nigrescens* (if a separate species) which according to Hesler is said to be white when young but which they had not observed, *nigrescens* according to Arora has a bluntly conic red to scarlet cap and is said to be often found under oak, *nigrescens* according to Largent distinguished by the slightly larger, more consistently red to scarlet, bluntly to obtusely umbonate cap and slightly broader stem; like *acutoconica* which only blackens at the base; like *cuspidata* which does not blacken when bruised; like *conicoides* Orton from England which has gills soon flushed rose red or scarlet from the base, finally entirely carmine or cherry red, with all parts blackening

**SOURCES** Hesler\*(as *Hygrophorus*), Arora\*, Phillips\*, Lincoff(2)\*, Lincoff(1)\*, Ammirati\*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen\*, Kibby\*, Courtecuisse\*, Bessette(2)\*(as *Hygrophorus*), Barron\*, PNW keys(as *Hygrophorus*)

**FAMILY** Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales