

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 laeta* (Persoon ex Fries) Kummer Fuhr. in Pilzk.; *Hygrophorus laetus* (Fr.) Fr.; *Hygrophorus davisii* Peck; *Hydrocybe davisii* (Peck) Murrill; *Hygrophorus roseiceps* Murrill; *Hydrocybe roseiceps* Murrill; *Hygrophorus peckii* Atk.

ENGLISH NAME(S) orange-brown waxy-cap

NOTES features include slimy striate cap with variable color (pale violet, pale violet gray, pale winy gray, pinkish red, tawny-brown, orange, olive-orange) but when dried all collections uniformly and characteristically a beautiful "flesh color" to "orange pink", adnate to decurrent gills with variable color like cap, very slimy stem which is pale yellow tinged with cap color, and microscopic features including narrow spores and the typical filamentous cheilocystidia; forma pallidus of *Hygrophorus laetus* is described from MI, with pallid cap, gills and stem; Hesler & Smith report distribution of *H. laetus* as WA, OR, ID, also AL, CA, FL, MA, MD, ME, MI, NC, NY, OH, PA, TN, TX, WV, Belgium, South America, Japan

CAP 1-3cm, convex becoming flat or depressed at cap center with margin sometimes upturned; color variable: pale violet, flesh, tawny-brown, orange, olive-orange, often paler at margin; smooth, slimy and sticky, with a striate margin, (Phillips), 1-3.5cm, convex then flat or depressed, the margin sometimes upturned; color variable, when young "pale violet gray" to "light vinaceous gray", often sordid olivaceous orange becoming "Mars orange" to "orange-rufous" at maturity, sometimes "tawny-olive", "buff orange", "pinkish buff" or "onion skin pink"; slimy-viscid, bald, translucent-striate, (Hesler), dark pinkish red to vinaceous gray with a pale red margin, fading entirely to pinkish white, (Largent)

FLESH thin, tough; colored as cap or lighter, (Phillips), thin, tough; colored as cap or paler, (Hesler)

GILLS decurrent, subdistant, narrow to moderately broad, intervenose; color variable like cap, whitish to flesh-pink, (Phillips), adnate to decurrent, subdistant, narrow to moderately broad, tough; variously colored (like cap), pinkish, pale violet-gray or light vinaceous gray and becoming "buff-pink", edges at times pinkish purple, (Hesler), gray-whitish with an olive tint when young, (Breitenbach), pinkish-red to pale red or pastel-red, (Largent)

STEM 3-10cm x 0.2-0.6cm, hollow, pale yellow tinged with cap color, smooth and very slimy, (Phillips), 3-12cm x 0.2-0.4(0.6)cm, equal, hollow, fairly pliant; more or less colored as cap, top often "pale violet gray"; slimy-viscid, bald, (Hesler), +/- yellow-orange, apex generally with olive-gray tones, (Breitenbach), mostly light orange, but with a pinkish tinge at top, (Largent)

VEIL presumably absent

ODOR faint or slightly fishy (Phillips), none or faintly disagreeable (fishy), (Hesler)

TASTE not distinctive (Phillips, Hesler)

EDIBILITY yes but not worthwhile (Phillips)

HABITAT "scattered to gregarious in damp soil among moss or bracken or in woods", May to December, (Phillips), gregarious on damp soil in woods and on moss in bogs, (Hesler)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Phillips)

MICROSCOPIC spores 5-7.5 x 4-5 microns, broadly elliptic, inamyloid, (Phillips), spores 5-7.5(8) x 3-4(5) microns, elliptic, smooth, yellowish in Melzer's (inamyloid); basidia 2- and 4-spored, (25)38-66 x 4-7 microns; pleurocystidia none, cheilocystidia 25-52 x 1.5-2.5 microns, slender-filamentous, at times branching, projecting; gill tissue parallel or subparallel; clamp connections present on cuticular hyphae, at times rare, (Hesler)

NAME ORIGIN means "glad" or "shiny"

SIMILAR like psittacina somewhat, but laeta has green confined to gills and stem top, never green when young and usually has decurrent gills, dried specimens may be indistinguishable as all green color is gone

SOURCES Hesler*(as Hygrophorus), Phillips*(as Hygrophorus), Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Kibby*, Courtecuisse*, Bessette(2)*(as Hygrophorus), Barron*, PNW keys(as Hygrophorus), Breitenbach(3)*, Largent(4)

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales