

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 miniata* (Fr.) Kummer Fuhr. in Pilzk p.112. 1871 var. *miniata*; *Hygrophorus miniatus* (Fr.) Fr. var. *miniatus*; *Hygrophorus miniatus* Fr. var. *typicus* A.H.Sm. & Hesler; *Hydrocybe constans* Murrill; *Hygrophorus constans* Murrill; *Hygrophorus miniatus* var. *congelatus* Peck; *Hygrophorus congelatus* Peck; *Hygrophorus flammeus* Schroeter; *Hydrocybe flammea* (Scop.) Murrill

ENGLISH NAME(S) miniature waxy-cap, vermilion waxcap

NOTES characterized by small size, convex to flat, non-viscid cap that fades from red to yellow or orange, but several similar species, Largent says this taxon characterized by omphalinoid stature, bright red, fine-scaly or lacerate-scaly cap, reddish, s

CAP 1-4cm, convex to flat or slightly depressed; hygrophanous, bright red to scarlet when moist, quickly fading as it dries to orange and finally yellow; smooth or minutely scaly, not viscid, (Arora); (1)2-4cm, broadly convex with incurved margin when young, when old convex or flat, the disc often depressed or slightly umbilicate; subhygrophanous (somewhat hygrophanous), brilliant scarlet when moist, fading to orange or pale yellow; appearing bald when dry but minutely fibrillose-scurfy when faded, margin may be translucent-striate, occasionally slightly cracked when old or when dried, (Hesler), (0.8)1.2-3.0(4.0)cm wide (Arnolds)

FLESH very thin, waxy; colored more or less like cap (Arora), thin, brittle, waxy, colored as cap or paler, varying from scarlet to orange or pale yellow, unchanging, in stem the cortex orange and stuffed with yellow pith, (Hesler)

GILLS adnexed to adnate or very slightly decurrent, broad, thick, soft, waxy; red to orange, yellow, or peach (fading like cap), (Arora), bluntly adnate but becoming broadly adnexed, at times subdecurrent, close to subdistant, broad, becoming ventricose (broader in middle); almost colored as cap, fading to orange or yellow; edges eroded, (Hesler), often notched (Ammirati)

STEM 2-5(8)cm x 0.2-0.4cm, equal; red to orange or yellow (fading like the cap but more slowly); dry, smooth, (Arora), 3-5(7)cm x 0.3-0.4cm, equal; colored as cap and fading slowly, therefore usually redder than faded cap; bald or when faded faintly fibrillose, (Hesler), 1.8-6.8cm x 0.2-0.5(0.6)cm (Arnolds)

VEIL absent

ODOR not distinctive (Hesler)

TASTE mild or slightly earthy (Hesler)

EDIBILITY bland, but esteemed by Charles McIlvaine, (Arora)

HABITAT solitary, scattered or in groups or small tufts on ground, rotting logs (unlike most waxy-caps), or in moss, (Arora), gregarious on soil, at times among moss, or on rotting logs and humus, in deciduous and mixed woods, (Hesler)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores 6-10 x 4-6 microns, elliptic, smooth, (Arora), spores 6-8(10) x 4-5(6) microns, elliptic, sometimes irregular like corn kernels, smooth, yellow in Melzer's (inamyloid); basidia 1-, 2-, and 4-spored, 34-48 x 5-8 microns, pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia absent or not differentiated from basidia, gill tissue subparallel; cap cuticle of erect to repent hyphae which are septate, more or less constricted, the terminal elements somewhat clavate; clamp connections present on cuticular hyphae, (Hesler), cap cuticle a trichodermium, more or less erect on disc and suberect to repent towards the margin, often agglutinated into clusters, terminal cells cylindro-clavate to clavate to broadly clavate, 19.7-73.8 x 7.4-19.7 microns, (Largent), spores (5.5)6.0-9.0(9.5) x (3.5)4.0-5.5(6.0) microns (Arnolds)

NAME ORIGIN means "red lead colored"

SIMILAR squamulosa and may be impossible to separate, but squamulosa has thick firm cap flesh (rather than soft and brittle), more scaly cap, and cheilocystidia (though scattered to rare) and top of stem of miniata rather sparsely covered with white granular powder; cantharella has a longer stem and strongly decurrent gills which are yellow to orange but never red; subminiata is smaller, with scarlet to orange, slightly viscid cap and decurrent whitish to pale yellowish gills and very thin (0.2cm) stem, reai has viscid cap and stem and bitter taste; minutula has slimy cap and slimy stem that fades to yellowish

SOURCES Hesler*(as Hygrophorus), Arora*, Lincoff(2)*(as Hygrophorus), Lincoff(1)*(as Hygrophorus), Ammirati*(as Hygrophorus), Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Kibby*, Courtecuisse*, Bessette(2)*(as Hygrophorus), Barron*, PNW keys(as Hygrophorus), Redhead(5), Largent(4)

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales