

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 psittacina* (Fr.) Kummer; *Hygrophorus psittacinus* (Fr.) Fr.

ENGLISH NAME(S) parrot waxy-cap

NOTES distinguished when fresh by glutinous green cap and stem; var. *californicus* from CA is distinguished by blue colors and larger basidia; *H. psittacina* fairly common, Hesler & Smith list distribution as BC, WA, OR, also NS, ON, CA, MA, MD, ME, MI, NC, TN, Europe (including Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands), also in Switzerland

CAP 1-3cm, bell-shaped or convex to broadly umbonate or flat; "color extremely variable, at first dark green to bright green or olive-green, but soon fading to some shade of yellow, pink, orange, rufous, vinaceous, ochre-buff, tawny, etc."; slimy or viscid when moist, smooth, margin translucent-striate when moist, (Arora), 1-3cm, conic to bellshaped or finally convex to flat, sometimes remaining umbonate; dark green or "parrot green" when young and fresh, soon fading to ochraceous buff, rufous, tawny, pinkish flesh, yellow ocher, sordid yellowish, or olivaceous orange, usually drying bright pale incarnate; glutinous or viscid, appearing varnished when dry; translucent-striate at first, opaque when faded, (Hesler)

FLESH thin, soft, waxy, (Arora), thin, fragile; colored as cap surface, (Hesler)

GILLS adnate to very slightly decurrent, but sometimes seceding, well-spaced, soft, thick, waxy; at first green then fading like cap (but often yellower or redder) and often retaining slight greenish tints, (Arora), adnate, subdistant, narrow to broad; "light celandine green" at first, soon reddish or "cadmium yellow" to "light cadmium"; edges even, (Hesler)



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STEM 2-6(8)cm x 0.2-0.5cm, equal or widening downward, hollow; greenish when young but soon fading to yellow or cap color; smooth, very slimy or viscid when moist, (Arora); 3-7cm x 0.2-0.5cm, equal or widening slightly downward, hollow; green in upper part or almost over all when very young, soon changing to yellow or orange, when old pink like cap; slimy-viscid throughout its length, (Hesler)

VEIL absent

ODOR mild (Arora), not distinctive (Hesler)

TASTE not distinctive (Hesler)

EDIBILITY yes but slimy (Arora)

HABITAT solitary to scattered or in small groups in damp soil, moss, humus, etc., (Arora), gregarious to scattered in coniferous and deciduous woods, in pastures, and along roadsides, (Hesler)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores 6.5-10 x 4-6 microns, elliptic, smooth, (Arora), spores 6.5-8(10) x 4-5(6) microns, elliptic, smooth pale yellow in Melzer's (inamyloid); basidia 2- and 4-spored, 28-46 x 6-8 microns; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia not differentiated; gill tissue subparallel or very slightly interwoven: clamp connections none or rare on hyphae or epicutis, more frequently present at base of basidium, (Hesler)

NAME ORIGIN means "parrot green"

SIMILAR *laeta* in variable color 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*), Arora*, Lincoff(2)*(as *Hygrophorus*), Lincoff(1)*(as *Hygrophorus*), Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Kibby*, Courtecuisse*, Bessette(2)*(as *Hygrophorus*), Barron*, PNW keys(as *Hygrophorus*), Breitenbach(3)*

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales