

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 virginea* (Wulf.:Fr.) Orton & Watl.; *Hygrophorus virgineus* (Fr.) Fr. Epicr. Myc. p. 327. 1838; *Camarophyllus virgineus* (Fr.) Kummer; *Cuphophyllus virgineus* (Wulfen.:Fr.) Kovalenko

NOTES features include white overall color, moist to dry cap which is yellowish with age, especially at center, thick flesh at center of cap, decurrent distant broad gills which become tinged yellow, and dry stem; found at least CO, MI, TE, NC, Denmark, Netherlands, Switzerland, Japan,

CAP 2-5cm, convex at first and usually weakly umbonate, later nearly flat or finally slightly depressed, margin incurved at first, later nearly flat; white, finally tinged yellow at least over disc; moist at first, later dry and becoming rimose (cracked), finally somewhat pruinose or fibrillose, margin at times striatulate (finely striate) when wet, (Hesler), 2-5cm, convex becoming flattened and depressed, with incurved margin that becomes almost flat; white then ivory tinged ochraceous with age, especially at center; moist then dry with a slight bloom, margin striate when moist, (Phillips)

FLESH thick on disc, soft, watery; white, (Hesler), soft, thick at center of cap; whitish, (Phillips)

GILLS decurrent, subdistant to rather distant, 0.3-0.5(0.7)cm broad, rather thick, veined; white, finally tinged yellow, (Hesler), decurrent, widely spaced, broad; white then tinged yellow, (Phillips)

STEM 3-7cm x 0.3-0.8cm, narrowed in lower part, often widened in upper part, sometimes flexuous (bent both ways), solid at first, later stuffed; white, rarely pale pinkish lavender downward; smooth, bald, sometimes pruinose, (Hesler), 2.5-7cm x 0.3-0.7cm, solid, sometimes twisted and tapering toward the base; white, (Phillips), smooth, not viscid; white, rarely tinged salmon pink or pinkish lavender in lower half, (PNW keys)

VEIL presumably absent

ODOR none or slightly pleasant (Hesler), not distinctive (Phillips)

TASTE mild (Hesler, Phillips)

EDIBILITY good (Phillips)

HABITAT gregarious on soil, at times among moss, in deciduous, coniferous, and mixed woods, (Hesler), gregarious on soil or moss in woods (Phillips), in meadows and pastures (Breitenbach for Switzerland)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Hesler, Phillips)

MICROSCOPIC spores 8-10(12) x 5-7 microns, elliptic, more rarely ovoid, smooth, yellowish in Melzer's, (Hesler); basidia 4-spored, rarely 2-spored, 38-60 x 5-8 microns; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia none; gill trama interwoven, hyphae 5-12 microns broad; cap cuticle a cutis of undifferentiated, repent, non-gelatinous hyphae, 2-3 microns broad, hypodermium not differentiated, cap trama of radially disposed hyphae; clamp connections on the hyphae of the cuticle and gill trama, (Hesler), spores 8-10 x 5-7 microns, elliptic, inamyloid, (Phillips), spores 9-12 x 5.5-7.0 microns, (Largent)

NAME ORIGIN means 'maidenly'

SIMILAR *Hygrophorus niveus* but fleshier and bigger (form like *pratensis*), dries yellowish, has moist to dry cap, and larger spores, however, Arnolds 1986 (as quoted in Breitenbach) includes *Camarophyllus niveus* in *Hygrocybe virginea*; like *borealis* but cap becomes yellowish at least in center (*borealis* remains white), stem is not as slender, and spores are larger; like *piceae* which has white-furfuraceous stem apex and microscopically gill trama is different (Breitenbach, but note Hesler says stem of *virginea* sometimes pruinose)

SOURCES Hesler*(as *Hygrophorus*), Phillips*(as *Hygrophorus*), Lincoff(1)*(as *Camarophyllus*), Kibby*, Courtecuisse(as *Cuphophyllus*)*, Barron*(as *Hygrocybe virginea*), PNW keys (as *Hygrophorus*), Breitenbach(3)*

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales