

## 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.

[Click for further information about MMPNW](#)

Many illustrations need confirmation. Do not use this information to determine edibility.

I have read and agreed to the [disclaimer](#) and [copyright information](#).

**LATIN NAME(S)** *Hygrophorus agathosmus* Fr. *Epicr. Syst. Myc.* p.325. 1838; *Hygrophorus cerasinus* (Berk.) Fr.

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** gray almond waxy-cap, almond-scented waxcap

**NOTES** features include grayish viscid cap, waxy white to grayish gills, dry white to gray-tinged stem, almond odor, and association with conifers; fairly common in Pacific Northwest: Hesler & Smith examined collections from WA, OR, ID, and also CA, CO, MD, MI, NJ, WY, Bavaria, Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, found in Africa, also found in Switzerland, frequent on foray lists from BC

**CAP** 3-10cm, convex with incurved margin, to flat or with margin uplifted; "dull gray to ashy-gray, brownish-gray, or at times grayish-olive"; viscid when moist, smooth, (Arora), (3)4-8(11)cm, convex to obtuse with inrolled margin, becoming flat or with disc slightly depressed when old, sometimes remaining slightly umbonate; evenly "light drab" or a dull ashy gray, not fading much but sometimes with watery zones or spots near margin; glutinous to viscid, bald, margin very faintly tomentose, (Hesler)

**FLESH** soft; whitish, (Arora), soft; whitish or watery gray, (Hesler)

**GILLS** adnate to slightly decurrent, close or well-spaced, soft, waxy; white or sometimes grayish when old, (Arora), adnate, becoming adnate-decurrent, close to distant (40-50 reach stem), moderately narrow, rather thin; white becoming sordid grayish when old, (Hesler)

**STEM** 4-10(16)cm x 0.5-1.5(2)cm, equal or narrowing downward; white or tinged gray; smooth, not viscid, (Arora), 4-8(16)cm x 0.6-1.4(2.5)cm, equal or narrowing toward base, solid; whitish at first, pale ashy when old; dry or moist but no gelatinous universal veil present, evenly fibrillose-pruinose over all at first, becoming bald, (Hesler)

**VEIL** absent (Arora)



John Dennis



Michael Beug

**ODOR** sweet like almond extract (but sometimes faint), (Arora), fragrant and very pronounced, of bitter almonds, occasionally the odor weak, or also described as like celery or anise, (Hesler)

**TASTE** mild (Hesler)

**EDIBILITY** bland, doesn't taste the way it smells, (Arora)

**HABITAT** scattered to gregarious under conifers, (Arora), scattered under spruce and pine and in mixed woods, especially in pastures around scattered spruce, (Hesler)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** white (Arora)

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 7-10.5 x 4.5-5.5 microns, elliptic, smooth, (Arora), spores (7)8-10.5 x 4.5-5.5 microns, elliptic, smooth, inamyloid; basidia 4-spored, 48-65 x 6-8 microns; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia none; gill tissue divergent; clamp connections of hyphae of gill trama, not cuticle or cap trama, (Hesler)

**NAME ORIGIN** means "nice-smelling", agathos = good (Greek), osme = smell (Greek)

**SIMILAR** camarophyllus (somewhat) but it doesn't have almond odor; like odoratus (with almond odor) but odoratus smaller, yellowish tinged cap, more slender white stem that yellows on handling, and larger spores; bakerensis, pacificus, monticola and variicolor all have almond odor, but they have either larger cap and stem or brown cap, (Largent)

**SOURCES** Hesler\*, Arora\*, Lincoff(2)\*, Lincoff(1)\*, Ammirati\*, Courtecuisse\*, Bessette(2)\*, Barron\*, PNW keys, Breitenbach(3)\*, Largent(4)

**FAMILY** Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales



John Dennis



Boleslaw Kuznik