

## 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 bakerensis* A.H.Sm. & Hesler

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** brown almond waxy-cap, Mt Baker waxy-cap

**NOTES** features include reddish-brown to yellow-brown cap, waxy decurrent gills, dry white stem, and almond odor; fairly common, Hesler and Smith examined collections from WA, OR, ID, found on foray lists from BC, included by Bessette(2) for northeastern North America, and Barron says recorded in ON, eastern Canada and adjacent US

**CAP** 4-15cm, obtuse to convex becoming broadly convex or flat; cinnamon-brown to yellow-brown or tawny, margin usually paler or whitish; slimy or viscid when moist, smooth, (Arora), 4-15cm, obtuse when young, the margin incurved at first becoming flat or uplifted; disc some shade of yellow-brown, paler toward margin (disc "sudan brown" shading to "tawny-olive" or "amber brown" shading to "cinnamon-buff" toward the whitish margin); glutinous when wet, merely viscid when old, appressed fibers below the slime, margin cottony, (Hesler)

**FLESH** thick; white (Arora), thick (1cm near stem) tapering evenly to margin, firm; white, unchanging when cut or bruised, (Hesler)

**GILLS** usually decurrent but varying to adnate, soft, somewhat waxy; white to creamy or pinkish buff, (Hesler), decurrent or soon becoming so, close to subdistant (56-88 reaching stem), 2-3 tiers of subgills, narrow but becoming broad in large caps; creamy white, unchanging; edges even, (Hesler)

**STEM** 4-15cm x 0.8-2.5cm, equal or narrowing downward, solid; white to pinkish-buff; dry, smooth, (Arora), (4)7-14cm x 0.8-2.5cm, equal or narrowing downward, solid; white or pale pinkish buff; dry, cottony pruinose at top when young, merely unpolished over all when old, not staining when bruised, often beaded with clear drops in moist weather, (Hesler)

**VEIL** absent (Arora)



John Dennis



Michael Beug

**ODOR** sweet but sometimes faint, like almond extract or crushed peach pits (Arora), heavy but fragrant and very characteristic, reminding one somewhat of almonds, odor easily missed if one has just a few fruiting bodies, but in large collections it is very distinct, (Hesler)

**TASTE** mild (Hesler)

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

**HABITAT** widely scattered to gregarious under conifers, (Arora), scattered to gregarious under conifers, (Hesler)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** white (Arora)

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 7.5-10 x 4.5-6 microns, (Arora), spores 7-9(10) x 4.5-5(6) microns, elliptic, smooth, inamyloid; basidia 4-spored, 40-54 x 6-8 microns; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia absent; gill tissue divergent; clamp connections present in cuticle and gill trama, (Hesler)

**NAME ORIGIN** after Mt. Baker

**SIMILAR** agathosmus in odor but cap brown not gray; like variicolor in odor but dry stem; like pacificus and odoratus in odor but cap color different; like discoideus in color but discoideus has viscid stem and mild odor; like *Collybia oregonensis* (somewhat) but gills usually decurrent and gills somewhat waxy

**SOURCES** Hesler\*, Arora, Phillips\*, Lincoff(2)\*, Ammirati\*, Bessette(2)\*, Barron\*, PNW keys

**FAMILY** Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales



Michael Beug



Boleslaw Kuznik