

## 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)** *Hygrophorus erubescens* (Fr.) Fr. Epicr. Myc. p.322. 1838

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** pink waxy-cap

**NOTES** description from Hesler for var. *erubescens* except as noted (other descriptions not specific as to variety); var. *gracilis* differs from var. *erubescens* in being more slender, having more distant gills, lacking yellowish stains when fresh, and having different microscopic cap structure; Hesler & Smith examined collections of *erubescens* from ID, OR, and also ON, PQ, CA, CO, MI, NM, TN, WY, reported from western AB, also found in Europe (including Fennoscandia and Switzerland), Hesler & Smith examined collections of var. *gracilis* from WA, OR, TN

**CAP** (2)5-8cm for var. *erubescens*, 2-3cm for var. *gracilis*, convex becoming umbonate flat, margin incurved; disc "Vandyke red" to "Hessian brown", elsewhere whitish to "flesh pink" or "orange vinaceous", fading, a pink tinge often pervading the whole cap; glutinous or viscid, streaked with fibrils, finally with spot-like scales over disc, margin minutely tomentose, often with drops of moisture, (Hesler), 3-10cm, convex becoming flatter and broadly umbonate with incurved margin; whitish or flesh-colored with pink tinge over the whole cap and darker red on the disc, purple-pink scales or fibrils all over the cap, yellow-spotted in places; margin minutely woolly and often beaded with drops of moisture, (Phillips)

**FLESH** thin on margin, but thick on disc, soft; white, staining yellowish where bruised (var. *erubescens*), or unchanging (var. *gracilis*), (Hesler), thin, but thicker on disc; white, staining yellowish where bruised, (Phillips)



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**GILLS** adnate becoming decurrent, close to subdistant (var. erubescens), distant (var. gracilis), medium broad (narrow in var. gracilis), narrowed near margin; "pale pinkish buff", or flushed "shell pink", soon spotted or stained pinkish red, edges stained "purplish-vinaceous"; edges even or eroded, gills may be white at first in var. gracilis, (Hesler), adnate to decurrent, subdistant, moderately broad; pink spotted red, (Phillips)

**STEM** 4-7cm x 0.6-1.2cm for var. erubescens, 6-10cm x 0.4-0.8cm for var. gracilis, narrowing at base, top white, lower part "pale brownish vinaceous", (in var. erubescens only: sometimes yellowish when bruised), base whitish; dry, appressed-fibrillose to scabrous, becoming scurfy below, at first beaded with drops of moisture on top part, (Hesler), 4-7cm x 0.6-1.2cm, top white, lower part pale reddish-brown and sometimes yellowish where bruised; scaly and covered in minute close fibers, at first beaded with drops of moisture, (Phillips), top white and beaded with moisture drops at top when fresh, white below with pinkish red fibrils and dots, sometimes yellow, especially at the base, when old or when bruised, (Bessette)

**VEIL** absent (Hesler)

**ODOR** not distinctive (Hesler, Phillips)

**TASTE** not distinctive (Hesler, Bessette), bitter (Phillips, Courtecuisse, Barron)

**EDIBILITY** no (Phillips)

**HABITAT** gregarious under conifers, especially pine and spruce, (Hesler, Phillips), especially in mountains, (Phillips)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** white (Phillips)

**MICROSCOPIC** 7-10(11.5) x 5-6 microns for var. erubescens, (8-11 x 5.5-6(7) for var. gracilis), elliptic, smooth, inamyloid, (Hesler); basidia 4-spored, 53-64 x 6-9 microns; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia absent, gill tissue divergent, "Toward the base of the pileal trama there is a zone of periclinal, parallel hyphae resembling a hypodermium, a structural feature not observed in any other species" and not observed in var. gracilis, clamp connections present in cap cuticle and gill trama, (Hesler), 6.4-7.7 x 4.1-5.2 microns (Phillips)

**NAME ORIGIN** means "reddening"

**SIMILAR** capreolarius which is uniformly dark reddish-purple when mushroom is mature; like *H. russula* which has close gills and grows under hardwoods; like *purpurascens* which has fibrillose veil and whitish fruiting bodies with only slightly reddish scales on cap and white gills with reddish edges

**SOURCES** Hesler(both varieties)\*, Phillips\*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen\*, Courtecuisse\*, Bessette(2)\*, Barron\*, PNW keys, Kernaghan

**FAMILY** Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales