

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 hypothejus* (Fr.) Fr. *Epicr. Myc.* p.324. 1838; *Hygrophorus subpustulatus* (Murrill) Murrill; *Hydrocybe arenicola* Murrill

ENGLISH NAME(S) olive-brown waxy-cap, late fall waxy-cap

NOTES features include yellow brown to olivaceous buff cap with dark vinaceous brown disc, the cap sticky or slimy and when old convex to depressed, decurrent gills, glutinous stem, and preference for pine habitat; fairly common, "H. hypothejus is our most common *Hygrophorus* under two-needle pines during wet weather in the fall." (Hesler); reported from BC by Bandoni & Szczawinski, Hesler & Smith examined collections from WA, OR, ID, and AL, CA, CO, DC, FL, GA, MA, MI, NC, NY, TN, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom, also found in Switzerland

CAP 2-8cm, convex to broadly umbonate, flat or depressed; "color variable, typically dark brown to olive-brown at center and greenish-yellow to yellow ochre at margin when young (but sometimes entirely olive-brown), often developing yellow-orange to reddish-orange tones in age, especially near margin"; viscid or slimy when wet, smooth, (Arora), 2-8cm, slightly umbonate, then may become convex to flat, sometimes with elevated margin; "bone brown" to "olive brown" on disc, elsewhere "pale dull green-yellow," "yellow ocher," "buckthorn brown," or "Vandyke brown," colors becoming brighter in age ("straw yellow" to "ochraceous orange" or occasionally "scarlet" in extreme age near the margin), disc remaining more or less dark olive brown"; glutinous, bald or somewhat agglutinated-fibrillose near margin, (Hesler)

FLESH thin; yellowish to whitish, (Arora), thin; yellowish near cap surface, watery whitish above gills, in stem whitish but yellowish near exterior, (Hesler)



Michael Beug



Fred Stevens (MykoWeb)

GILLS decurrent or occasionally adnate, well-spaced, thick, soft, waxy; at first pallid but soon becoming pale yellow, and when old sometimes brightly colored like cap margin, (Arora), decurrent, subdistant to distant, narrow to moderately broad; white at first but soon becoming pale yellow, and finally more or less colored as cap margin, (Hesler)

STEM (3)5-15cm x 0.5-1.5(2)cm, equal or narrowing downward; "yellow at top, otherwise pallid or variously colored (like cap)"; viscid or slimy when moist, (Arora), (2.5)8-16cm x (0.3)0.6-1.2(1.5)cm, narrowing slightly downwards, solid; upper area yellowish, lower part variously colored, olive brown, olivaceous yellow, bright yellow, orange, or scarlet; glutinous in lower two thirds, upper area silky, subapical fibrillose fleeting ring zone, (Hesler)

VEIL evanescent, leaving slime on stem and sometimes an obscure fibrillose ring, (Arora), partial veil floccose and leaving subapical fibrillose fleeting ring zone, (Hesler)

ODOR mild (Arora), not distinctive (Hesler)

TASTE not distinctive (Hesler)

EDIBILITY bland (Arora)

HABITAT "scattered to gregarious or in troops under conifers particularly pine", (Arora), gregarious under conifers, (Hesler), scattered to numerous, in bogs and under conifers, often 2-needle pines, (Lincoff)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores 7-9 x 4-5 microns, elliptic, smooth, (Arora), spores 7-9 x 4-5 microns, elliptic, smooth, bright yellow in Melzer's (inamyloid); basidia 4-spored, 42-60 x 6-7 microns; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia none; gill tissue divergent; clamp connections present in cap cuticle and gill trama, (Hesler)

NAME ORIGIN means "little less than yellow", hypo = under (Greek), thejon = sulfur (Greek)

SIMILAR like discoideus which differs in having a more ochre-colored to orange-brownish cap with a darker center; like olivaceoalbus which has a white stem with brownish mottling and occurs in spruce forests in damp mossy places (Breitenbach); like discoideus which differs in having a more ochre-colored to orange-brownish cap with a darker center, (Breitenbach); like aureus which differs by having a bright orange cap and is rare if present in North America, but colors intergrade with those of hypothejus

SOURCES Arora*, Lincoff(2)*, Kibby*, Courtecuisse*, Bessette(2)*, Barron*, PNW keys, Bandoni, Breitenbach(3)*

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales



Ben Woo



Boleslaw Kuznik



Boleslaw Kuznik



Drew Parker