

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 piceae* Kuhn. & Romagn.

ENGLISH NAME(S) spruce waxy-cap

NOTES features include white overall color, viscid non-striate cap, white gills which become pale pinkish buff, and dry white stem; description derived from Hesler except where noted; Hesler & Smith examined collections from WA, OR, ID, and also CA, MA, ME, MI, NY, reported by Schalkwijk-Barendsen for BC and she says "frequent on the Pacific Coast, in the Rocky Mountains, and on the [Canadian] prairies", also in Europe including Switzerland

CAP 1-4(6)cm, convex, then flattening or with uplifted margin; snow white; viscid, bald to innately appressed fibrillose under the viscosity

FLESH soft; white

GILLS adnate becoming decurrent when old, subdistant (25-30 reach stem), broad, rather thin, some forked near margin; snow white becoming pale pinkish buff; edges even

STEM (1.5)3-5cm x 0.3-0.5(1.2)cm, narrowing downward, hollow; moist to dry (no gelatinous veil present in button phase), bald over lower half, upper half covered by white cottony fibrillose coating but not scabrous, (Hesler), up to 8cm long and 0.6cm thick, equal; white; silky, smooth, (Schalkwijk-Barendsen)

ODOR not distinctive

TASTE not distinctive

HABITAT under spruce and in swampy areas

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Schalkwijk-Barendsen)

MICROSCOPIC spores 6-8(10) x 4-5(6) microns, elliptic, smooth, inamyloid; basidia 4-spored, 48-62 x 6-8 microns; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia none, gill tissue divergent; clamp connections rare on cuticular hyphae

NAME ORIGIN means "of spruce"

SIMILAR *eburneus* but less ivory in color, smaller and less slimy (dry on stem); like *niveus* but cap not translucent-striate when wet; like *Hygrocybe virginea* but *piceae* has a white-furfuraceous stem apex, and differs microscopically in the structure of the gill trama, (Breitenbach, but note Hesler says stem of *virginea* sometimes pruinose)



Ben Woo



Michael Beug

SOURCES Hesler*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, PNW keys,
Breitenbach(3)*, Largent(4)

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales