

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 russula* (Fr.) Quelet *Ench. Fung. p. 49. 1886*; *Melanoleuca russula* (Gill.) Murrill; *Tricholoma russula* (Fr.) Gill.

ENGLISH NAME(S) Russula-like waxy-cap, Russula waxcap

NOTES recognized by coral-pink to vinaceous red cap usually streaked with purple-red or vinaceous fibrils, the cap viscid but soon dry, hard flesh, close to crowded gills, dry smooth stem, absence of a veil, and growth with hardwoods; Hesler & Smith examined collections from WA and also AL, IL, MA, MI, NY, TN, TX, Canada, and Belgium, and include NC in distribution, reported from BC (Paul Kroeger, pers. comm.), also elsewhere in Europe including Switzerland

CAP 5-13cm, convex to flat or uplifted, margin often incurved when young; "coral-pink to vinaceous-red, usually streaked with purple-red or vinaceous fibrils", "occasionally staining yellowish when rubbed or in age", margin often paler or whitish; viscid

FLESH thick; white or tinged pink, (Arora), thick, firm; white or tinged pinkish, (Hesler), firm, quite hard, similar to *Russula* Section *Compactae*, (Largent)

GILLS usually adnate but sometimes adnexed or slightly decurrent, close to crowded (120-150 reach the stem), soft, slightly waxy; white at first but soon flushed pink and developing purplish-red to vinaceous stains when old, (Arora), bluntly adnate, becoming decurrent, rather close, narrow to moderately broad, acuminate (gradually narrowing to a point) at both ends; white when young but soon flushed with pale pink and later spotted with sordid purplish-red spots, sometimes sordid purplish red over all when old, (Hesler)



Ben Woo

STEM 3-10cm x 1.5-3.5cm, usually stout, equal or narrowing in lower part, solid; white at first, soon stained or streaked pink to reddish or vinaceous; dry, smooth, (Arora), 3-7cm x 1.5-3.5cm, equal or narrowing slightly downward, or wider in middle, solid; white at first becoming stained, streaked or washed pinkish, finally colored more or less as cap; dry, top pruinose to bald, lower part bald, (Hesler), at first bald, then typically developing purplish red punctae particularly at the apex with age, on exposure or when dried, punctae may extend over the entire surface, eventually the surface becomes colored as the cap, (Largent)

VEIL absent (Arora)

ODOR typically mild (Arora), mild (Hesler)

TASTE typically mild, (Arora), mild (Hesler), sometimes slightly bitter, (Lincoff(1))

EDIBILITY choice according to some (Arora)

HABITAT scattered to gregarious or in fairy rings in mixed woods and under hardwoods, associated mainly with oaks, (Arora), gregarious at times in arcs or fairy rings, in oak and mixed oak-pine woods, (Hesler)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Arora, Hesler)

MICROSCOPIC spores 6-8 x 3-5 microns, elliptic, smooth gill tissue slightly divergent, (Arora), spores 6-8 x 3-4.5(5) microns, elliptic, smooth, inamyloid; basidia 4-spored, 40-53 x 5-6 microns; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia absent; gill tissue divergent with a mediostrate composed of large hyphae, 5-16 microns broad; clamp connections present on gill trama and cuticular hyphae, (Hesler)

NAME ORIGIN means "reddish", but may refer to *Russula*

SIMILAR like *Russula* in stature but stem does not snap like chalk; like *erubescens* which has smaller less compact cap, more well-spaced gills (75-95 reach stem instead of 120-150), more slender stem that is purple-red punctate along most of its length, color change of cap and stem (especially base) to yellow is more pronounced, grows under conifers; like *capreolarius* which has cap, stem and gills colored a somber wine-red brown, and gills are more well-spaced; like *purpurascens* which is predominantly cream-white, but cap center becomes pink and slightly reddish-scaly, it has a fibrillose veil and it favors conifers

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

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales