

## 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 tephroleucus* (Fr.) Fr. var. *tephroleucus* Epicr. Myc. P. 328. 1838

**NOTES** features include slimy cap that is dark gray on disc and pale gray toward margin, white to cream gills, and white stem with slimy base when young, the stem with fibrous dots near top, fibrillose in lower part, becoming gray-fibrillose in lower part; var. *aureofloccosus* of southeastern U.S. has tips of scales on upper stem initially golden yellowish; Breitenbach(3) says that the species is difficult to interpret and is similar to *H. pustulatus* (Fr.) Fr. and considered by Melot 1981 to be a synonym of *pustulatus*, Hesler & Smith whose description is used here, examined collections from ID, OR, and also CA, FL, MI, Canada, Argentina, also found in Europe

**CAP** 1-3cm, convex to flat or slightly depressed; dark gray disc, paler gray outer part, fading over all to pale ashy gray when old; slimy, appressed scales when old

**FLESH** thin, soft; whitish

**GILLS** adnate becoming decurrent, subdistant, broad; white, becoming creamy when old

**STEM** 4-6cm x 0.2-0.3(0.4)cm, equal, solid; white; with white fibrous dots near top, fibrillose in lower part, becoming gray-fibrillose in upper part, base slimy when young, soon dry

**ODOR** not distinctive

**TASTE** not distinctive

**HABITAT** gregarious under conifers and in Sphagnum bogs

**SPORE DEPOSIT** presumably white

**MICROSCOPIC** spores (7)8-10 x 4-5 microns, elliptic, smooth, inamyloid; basidia 4-spored, 40-58 x 6-8 microns; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia absent; gill tissue divergent; clamp connections present on cuticular and gill trama hyphae

**NAME ORIGIN** means 'ashy white'

**SIMILAR** to *H. pustulatus* and considered by Melot (1981, quoted in Breitenbach) a synonym of that species; punctae of *H. tephroleucus* sensu Hesler & Smith are said to be paler than those of *pustulatus* (Largent); Hesler & Smith say "Konrad (1936) apparently believes that *H. olivaceoalbus* var. *gracilis* is the fungus Fries described under the name *H. tephroleucus*. It remains to be seen whether or not this concept will be generally accepted by European investigators. Konrad would probably have placed the species here described as *H. tephroleucus* under *H. pustulatus*. The pilei of the California collection of the latter, however, were not as fibrillose as those of *H. tephroleucus*, and the stems were punctate above as in *H. pudorinus* rather than furnished with fine fibrillose points as in *H. tephroleucus*."

**SOURCES** Hesler\*, Breitenbach(3), Largent(4)

**FAMILY** Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales