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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Many illustrations need confirmation. Do not use this information to determine edibility.

LATIN NAME(S) Inocybe lanuginosa (Bull.: Fr.) Kummer group; Inocybe nodulospora (Peck) Sacc.; Inocybe ovatocystis Boursier & Kuehner

ENGLISH NAME(S) woolly Inocybe

NOTES distinguishing features of the I. lanuginosa group as described by Matheny and Kropp are the brown squarrose to squamulose cap, young gills that are pallid and become brown with age, brown squamulose, floccose to woolly-fibrillose stem, occurrence

CAP 1.0-3.5cm, conic, obtusely conic to convex, flat with age, usually with a low obtuse umbo when flat, margin incurved to downcurved; brown with darker center, dry, disc with small crowded hispid squarrae (bristle-like upright to curved-up pointed scales), squamulose (finely scaly) or recurved-squamulose toward the margin, tearing with age but not rimose (not cracking), neither shaggy nor revealing a pallid ground color

FLESH up to 0.3cm thick, whitish, unchanging where bruised, in stem pallid to dingy

GILLS adnate to uncinate, close, with several tiers of subgills, up to 0.3cm broad, even to (sub)ventricose; pallid at first becoming brown, edges pallid; edges fimbriate (fringed)

STEM 2.0-4.5cm x 0.3-0.7cm, equal to slightly enlarged at base, round in cross-section, solid at first but may become hollow with age; extreme apex pallid, lower half colored as cap; dry, extreme apex pruinose, lower half woolly-fibrillose or floccose to appressed-(sub)squamulose, less so towards top, extreme base at times with white mycelium

VEIL cortina fleeting (Matheny), cobwebby, pallid evanescent, (Arora)

ODOR not remarkable

TASTE not remarkable or slightly acidulous

EDIBILITY unknown (Arora)

HABITAT "In North America I. lanuginosa appears restricted to rotten woody substrates, either on stumps of conifers or terrestrially on buried rotten wood. It is found under conifers (Abies, Picea, Pinus, Pseudotsuga, Thuja and Tsuga) or in mixed woods where conifers (Abies, Picea) are present. In Europe, it is cited more frequently on the ground and at times under hardwoods (Betula, Populus and Alnus)", peaks from July to September, but recorded from March through December, (Matheny)

SPORE DEPOSIT brown: "ochraceous-buff" (Ridgway color)

MICROSCOPIC spores 8-10.5(11) x (5)5.5-7.5(8) microns, distinctly nodulose, outline often subelliptic, typically with (8)9-13(14) nodules; basidia 4-spored, (14)19-30(34) microns, clavate to cylindrico-clavate, colorless or nearly so; pleurocystidia fre

NAME ORIGIN means "full of down"

SIMILAR I. leptophylla is indistinguishable in the field from I. lanuginosa: it has similar hispid-squarrose cap and woolly squamulose stem, I. leptophylla is less restricted to woody substrates than lanuginosa but identification must be made microscopically: I. leptophylla has larger spores with more nodules, lacks pleurocystidia, and has somewhat larger basidia, (Matheny); I. stellatospora is subtly different in the field, with a shaggy-squamulose cap, is less common in the Pacific Northwest, typically grows on the ground, and has differently shaped and larger hymenial cystidia and larger basidia, (Matheny); I. subcarpta lacks the squamulose stem, but weathered specimens can be confused (see SIMILAR section of stellatospora); growth on wood is in general unusual behaviour for Inocybe, but has been observed for instance with the similar species I. leptophylla, I. stellatospora, and I. subcarpta

SOURCES Matheny(1), Arora, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Courtecuisse*, Kauffman(4), Bandoni, Nishida(2)

FAMILY Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales