

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) *Lactarius affinis* Peck Ann. Rep. N.Y. State Cab. 23: 116. 1872

ENGLISH NAME(S) sticky milk-cap

NOTES features include smooth sticky cap that is pallid to buff to cinnamon, milk-white latex, stem colored as cap, peppery taste, and elliptic spores with amyloid ridges and warts; var. *viridilactis* has milk whose droplets dry olive and/or stain tissues olive (e.g. gills spot olivaceous to gray brown from dried milk), Hesler and Smith say of *L. affinis* Peck var. *viridilactis* (Kauffman) Hesler & Smith described here that they "suspect that it is present in the forests of northern Idaho", Phillips' shorter description of the type variety is included as well

CAP 6-15(18)cm, convex-depressed with an inrolled margin, expanding to flat or broadly funnel-shaped, margin often lobed; colors pallid to cinnamon-buff or these with a tinge of vinaceous, varying to dingy ochraceous to about "pinkish cinnamon" or finally a dull cinnamon, azonate; viscid, slimy when young and wet, shining when dry, bald, margin naked to unpolished when inrolled, (Hesler), 8-10cm, convex with a depressed disc; pale ochre to yellow to pinkish cinnamon; smooth and sticky, (Phillips)

FLESH firm and hard, whitish at first, flushed cinnamon when old, (Hesler), firm to soft; white, (Phillips), MILK white, droplets drying olive and/or wounds staining olivaceous, (Hesler), milk-white, unchanging, not staining, (Phillips)

GILLS subdecurrent, or at first bluntly adnate, close to subdistant, broad, up to 1.0cm; pale pinkish buff becoming "light pinkish cinnamon", injured places slowly greenish; pruinose when old, (Hesler), decurrent or nearly adnate, quite broad; whitish tinged with yellow, (Phillips)



Ben Woo

STEM 4-12cm x 1-3cm, equal or enlarged downward, hollow; colored as cap or paler, at times with rusty brown stains around base; distinctly viscid when young and fresh but soon dry and shining, occasionally scrobiculate, (Hesler), 2.5-8cm x 1.4-2.4cm, stuffed then hollow, same color as cap, smooth, (Phillips)

VEIL none

ODOR mild (Hesler)

TASTE very peppery (Hesler), peppery (Phillips)

EDIBILITY no (Phillips)

HABITAT scattered or in groups in pastures or mixed woods and under conifers, (Phillips)

SPORE DEPOSIT yellowish (Hesler), white, (Phillips)

MICROSCOPIC spores 8-9.5(10) x 6.5-8 microns, broadly elliptic to elliptic, ornamentation a broken reticulum with many short ridges and some isolated warts, some ridges connected but orientation of the lines often extending around the short axis of the spore, prominences about 1 micron high, (Hesler); basidia 4-spored, +/- 45-52 x 10-12 microns; pleurocystidia: macrocystidia 45-90 x 6-11 microns, projecting, subclavate to subcylindric, rounded to acute (more narrowly tapered when old), pseudocystidia not observed; cheilocystidia 37-60 x 4.5-6 microns, subcylindric to subclavate, rounded, (Hesler), spores 8-10 x 7.1-7.7 microns, elliptic, ornamented with a partial or broken network (reticulum), prominences 0.5-1 micron high (Phillips)

NAME ORIGIN means "related"

SIMILAR like *trivialis* whose buttons are violaceous-fuscous; like *argillaceifolius*; like *pallidus* which has different spore ornamentation

SOURCES Hesler(4), Phillips*, Bessette(2)*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, McKnight*

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales