

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 caespitosus* Hesler & Smith North American Species of *Lactarius* p.349. 1979

ENGLISH NAME(S) gray milk-cap

NOTES features include yellowish brown to gray-brown or olive-brown viscid cap, scanty white unchanging milk which slowly stains flesh yellow and gills brownish, close whitish then pinkish brown gills, slimy stem which is off-white to pale brown or brownish gray, mild then peppery taste, growth in spruce-fir zone of Rockies often in tufts, pale buff spore deposit, and elliptic spores with amyloid ridges and prominences up to 0.5 microns high; found at least WA, OR, ID, also CA, CO, UT, WY, reported from western AB

CAP 4-10cm, "convex with inrolled margin, becoming shallowly depressed with an upturned margin; tawny brown to gray- or olive-brown"; smooth, viscid, (Phillips), 4.5-10(15)cm, convex with inrolled margin, becoming shallowly depressed with arched margin; azonate, 'evenly "drab" or varying toward "buffy brown" (gray brown to olive-brown)'; viscid, bald, (Hesler), yellowish brown to brown (Methven)

FLESH "thick, brittle; white, unchanging when first cut, but turning yellow after several hours", (Phillips), thick, brittle; white, "at first unchanging when cut but after several hours or overnight changing to yellow," (Hesler), MILK "white, scanty, unchanging but slowly staining flesh yellow and gills brownish", (Phillips), "scanty, white, not changing color, staining the flesh yellowish slowly and the gills brownish," (Hesler), copious, white to pale yellow, unchanging, slowly staining the flesh pale yellow on exposure, staining gills light brown where cut, (Methven)

GILLS "adnate becoming decurrent, close, narrow becoming broad, 2 or 3 tiers; whitish then pinkish brown", (Phillips), adnate becoming short-decurrent, close, narrow becoming broad, 2-3 tiers of subgills; whitish but finally pale pinkish buff to pinkish buff, some finally gradually sordid brown where bruised, (Hesler), pale yellow to grayish yellow (Methven)

STEM 3-7cm x 1-3cm, "hollow; off-white to pale brown or brownish gray"; slimy and viscid when fresh, shiny when dry, (Phillips), 3-7cm x 1-3cm, hollow; pallid to pale brownish or brownish gray; slimy-viscid fresh, shining when dry, (Hesler), brownish orange to yellowish brown (Methven)

VEIL none

ODOR pleasant (Phillips)

TASTE mild then peppery (Phillips), burning-peppery (Hesler)

EDIBILITY not known (Phillips)

HABITAT scattered to gregarious or growing in dense tufts under conifers in wet places, common in spruce fir zone of Rockies, (Phillips), caespitose [tufted], gregarious to scattered under conifers, (Hesler)

SPORE DEPOSIT pale buff (Phillips, Hesler), pale yellow (Methven)

MICROSCOPIC spores 9.5-11 x 7.5-9 microns, broadly elliptic, amyloid, "ornamented with prominences 0.2-0.5 microns high, forming a partial or incomplete reticulum," (Phillips), spores (8)9-12 x 7-9 microns, broadly elliptic, ornamentation a broken to partial network with angular variable-sized meshes, the lines broad to rather fine and in many spores the network not complete, prominences 0.2-0.5 microns high; basidia 4-spored, 45-60 x 9-12 microns; pleurocystidia: macrocystidia abundant, 60-105 x 9-12 microns, subcylindric and blunt, becoming fusoid and pointed, originating in subhymenium or gill trama, many of them dull pale ochraceous revived in KOH, content no spangled revived in KOH, pseudocystidia not found, cheilocystidia abundant, 45-60 x 9-16 microns, clavate to mucronate or similar to macrocystidia

NAME ORIGIN means 'tufted'

SIMILAR *kauffmanii* typically grows in Douglas fir-western hemlock forests and has different spores, (Hesler)

SOURCES Hesler(4), Phillips*, McKnight*, Kernaghan, Methven(2)

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales