

## 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 controversus* (Fr.) Fr. *Epicr. Syst. Mycol.* p.335. 1838

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** willow milk-cap, poplar milk-cap

**NOTES** one of several large *Lactarius* species with white unchanging milk and very peppery taste, distinguished by viscid appressed-fibrillose cap, pinkish-tinted gills, and association with aspen, poplar and willow; Hesler & Smith give distinctive features as white matted-fibrillose to bald cap which is often stained pinkish to lavender or brownish, slowly but strongly burning-acrid milk, small spores, and narrow pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia; description from Hesler(4) except where noted; found at least OR, ID, also ON, AK, CO, ME, MI, NM, WY, Great Britain, Netherlands, and given by Methven for CA and Cripps for MT

**CAP** (4)7-16(22)cm, large, convex to sunken to vase-shaped, margin inrolled at first; white or whitish, with stains that are lavender, smoky lavender, lavender-brown, or vinaceous to pink, usually with narrow zones in marginal area; appressed-fibrillose, viscid but soon dry, margin short pubescent-tomentose at first

**FLESH** firm; white, MILK white, unchanging, not staining, slowly peppery

**GILLS** adnate to subdecurrent, close to crowded, narrow, some forking near stem; pale pink to "light vinaceous-fawn", becoming pinkish cream when old

**STEM** 2.5-5(8)cm x 1.6-2.5(5.0)cm, equal or narrowing downward, stuffed then hollow, sometimes off-center; white; somewhat tacky when wet, sometimes spotted

**VEIL** none

**ODOR** none (Lincoff(1))

**TASTE** slowly peppery

**EDIBILITY** not recommended (Arora, Lincoff(1))

**HABITAT** under poplar and willow, (Hesler), scattered to gregarious under aspen, poplar and willow, (Arora)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** cream to "pale pinkish-cinnamon", (Hesler), pale yellow in mass (Methven)



Ben Woo

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 6-7.5 x 4.5-5 microns, elliptic, incomplete to partial reticulum with many free ends, separate parts and warts, prominences to 0.2-0.5 microns high; basidia 4-spored, +/- 37 x 7.5 microns; pleurocystidia of the intermediate type (30-45 x 3-5 microns), aciculate and with one or more subapical constrictions, often buried in the hymenium; cheilocystidia +/- basidiole-like

**NAME ORIGIN** Latin means "turned the other way" or "controversial"

**SOURCES** Hesler(4), Lincoff(2)\*, Lincoff(1)\*, Courtecuisse\*, Arora, Cripps(2)

**FAMILY** Russulaceae of Order Russulales