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 deliciosus (Fr.) S.F. Gray Nat. Arr. Brit. Pls. 1: 624. 1821

ENGLISH NAME(S) delicious milk-cap

NOTES characteristic features are orange young color, orange milk, and green staining, usually after an intervening dark red staining stage; a macroscopic key to varieties is given in PNW key: If milk is muddy carrot or reddish carrot at first and cap

CAP 5-16cm, broadly convex or with a depressed center and an inrolled margin when young, becoming depressed or shallowly funnel-shaped; "color variable: dull orange to carrot-orange or orange-brown, sometimes blotched with or entirely green, fading in age or dry weather to brownish, gray, dull greenish-gray, or even yellowish"; often zoned, surface viscid when moist but soon dry, smooth, (Arora), may be up to 35cm

FLESH thick, brittle; orange to yellowish or greenish, or becoming greenish, (Arora), MILK very scanty, bright carrot-orange (but in some forms slowly turning dark red when exposed) slowly staining wounded or aged tissue greenish (within 5 hours), (Arora)

GILLS adnate to decurrent, close; typically bright to dull orange, but varying to yellowish or orange-buff, greenish where wounded, (Arora)

STEM 2-7cm x 1-2.5cm, equal or narrowed at base, rigid, hollow when old; colored like cap or paler; soon dry, sometimes scrobiculate, frequently maggot-riddled, (Arora)

VEIL none

ODOR slightly fruity (Phillips), mild to slightly fruity or (var. areolatus) Morchella-like (PNW keys), peachlike

TASTE mild or slightly bitter (Arora), mild or slightly bitter or slightly peppery (PNW keys), or slightly soapy

EDIBILITY yes

HABITAT scattered to gregarious or in troops under conifers (Arora)

SPORE DEPOSIT creamy yellowish buff (Arora)

Fred Stevens (MykoWeb)

Alvin Funk

MICROSCOPIC spores 7-11 x 6-8.5 microns, elliptic to nearly round, with amyloid ridges (Arora); var. areolatus spores (7)8.5-11(12) x 6-8.5 microns, broadly elliptic, ornamentation in form of +/- heavily amyloid system of bands often widely spaced to f

NAME ORIGIN means "delicious" (Latin)

SOURCES Arora*, PNW keys, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Lincoff(1)*, Ammirati*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Kibby*, Courtecuisse*, Barron*, Bessette(2), Hesler(4), Methven(2)

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales