

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.

[Click for further information about MMPNW](#)

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

I have read and agreed to the [disclaimer](#) and [copyright information](#).

LATIN NAME(S) *Lactarius fallax* Smith & Hesler Brittonia 14: 405. 1962

ENGLISH NAME(S) velvety milk-cap

NOTES this is one of several *Lactarius* species with brown to nearly black, velvety cap, var. *fallax* differs from var. *concolor* in having marginate gills; the description derived from Hesler(4) is for var. *fallax*, var. *concolor* being similar except that it lacks the marginate gills; found at least WA, OR, ID, AK, CA, (both varieties in each case)

CAP 2.5-7(9)cm, convex to flat (often with an umbo) when young, often shallowly depressed when old, margin often scalloped; evenly dark brown to nearly black, azonate; dry and more or less velvety, often wrinkled toward center, (Arora), (2.5)3-9(10)cm, at first convex to flat with small papillate umbo, expanding to nearly flat when old or becoming shallowly depressed with or without umbo; dark sooty brown to blackish; dry, velvety, often rugulose [finely wrinkled] over disc, margin even to scalloped or crenate, (Hesler)

FLESH rather thin, brittle, whitish, staining dull reddish, (Arora), thin, brittle; whitish, staining pale vinaceous from milk, (Hesler), MILK white, usually copious, unclear whether unchanging or turning dull reddish but slowly staining wounded tissue dull reddish, (Arora), rather copious, milk-like, white, slowly staining the flesh and gills pale vinaceous, (Hesler), white, unchanging, staining the flesh and gills light orange, (Methven for var. *fallax* and *concolor*)

GILLS adnate to slightly decurrent, crowded, narrow; white to creamy-buff; edges dark in var. *fallax* and colored as faces in var. *concolor*, (Arora), adnate to short-decurrent, crowded, narrow, none forked near stem, subgills in several or more tiers; white at first, creamy-buff when old, gradually staining vinaceous when injured (often in several hours if fruiting bodies old), edges brown like cap overall or in parts (but var. *concolor* has non-marginate edges), edges even, (Hesler)



Sara Clark



Michael Beug

STEM 2.5-7cm x 0.5-1.5cm, rather slender, more or less equal, colored like cap or somewhat paler, dry and unpolished or velvety, (Arora), 2.5-6cm x 0.8-1.5cm, equal or nearly so, solid; usually a paler brown than cap; dry and unpolished to velvety, (Hesler)

VEIL none

ODOR not distinctive (Hesler)

TASTE mild or slightly peppery (Arora), mild to faintly peppery (Hesler), not distinctive (Methven for var. fallax and var. concolor)

EDIBILITY unknown (Arora)

HABITAT scattered or in small groups under conifers or occasionally on rotting wood, (Arora), scattered to gregarious in alpine habitats under conifers, on duff or very rotten conifer logs, (Hesler)

SPORE DEPOSIT yellowish (Arora, Hesler)

MICROSCOPIC "spores 9-12 x 8-11 microns, more or less round, with amyloid warts and ridges," (Arora), spores 9-12 x 8.5-11.5 microns, 7.5-10 microns excluding ornamentation, round, ornamentation a broken to partial reticulum, prominences 0.8-2.0 microns

NAME ORIGIN means 'false'

SIMILAR lignyotus, whose status in PNW uncertain, but which has broader more widely spaced gills (close to distant), and different cap cuticle microscopically, Hesler and Smith say that *Lactarius fallax* var. *concolor* is the fungus that has been generally identified as *L. lignyotus* in the Pacific Northwest, and the gills of that variety are given as close to crowded and narrow, note the occurrence of several varieties of *lignyotus* in North America however; like *pallidiolivaceus* which has light brown to grayish brown cap as opposed to brown to dark brown, (Methven)

SOURCES Hesler(4), Arora*, Phillips*, PNW keys, Ammirati(5), Hesler(4), Methven(2)

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales



Michael Beug



Michael Beug