

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 hepaticus* Plowright in E. Boudier: Icones Myc. IV: 28. 1905; *Lactarius nitidus* Burlingham

NOTES features include moist cap that is rusty red to dull chestnut when young, unchanging milk-white milk that stains white paper yellow at least when young, decurrent close narrow gills that are pale buff to pinkish or with a mauvy bloom, dry cap-colored stem with a velvety bloom when young, slow strong peppery taste, cream spore deposit, and elliptic warts with amyloid warts and ridges; the American variant of *L. hepaticus* apparently has latex that shows less of a tendency to yellow on exposure to air, and to discolor cut surfaces yellow, than the type variant from Europe; found at least WA, ID, also NS, CO, MA, ME, MI, NH, NM, UT, VT, WI, France, Netherlands, Switzerland, CHEMICAL REACTIONS cap surface dull olive with KOH

CAP 3-9cm, "convex becoming flatter then depressed in the center, sometimes with a central papilla and a spreading or wavy margin crimped with tiny lobes; rusty red or dull chestnut, with papilla often darker; moist but not sticky, smooth, opaque," (Phillips), (3)4-9cm, convex-depressed, margin more or less spreading when old; dark rusty red (about brick-red), when dried dark vinaceous-brown to dull red and often with a darker central spot; moist but not tacky, bald, opaque, not areolate or rimose and scarcely shining when old, (Hesler), the button have a particularly dark reddish color, becoming paler to dark red brown when mature (S. Gamiet, pers. comm.)

FLESH thin but brittle; pale, dingy pinkish buff, (Phillips), thin but brittle; pallid to pale sordid vinaceous-buff, (Hesler), MILK "milk-white, unchanging, staining white paper yellow," (Phillips), milk-white, unchanging but readily staining white paper sulfur-yellow at least when young, the stains persistent, (Hesler)

GILLS "decurrent, close, narrow; pale buff to pinkish or with a mauvy bloom," (Phillips), decurrent, close, narrow; "pallid becoming vinaceous-pallid, slowly becoming dull vinaceous to +/- vinaceous-red but whitish as dried", (Hesler)

STEM 4-9cm x 0.4-1.0cm, "solid; about the same color as the cap; dry, fragile, with a velvety bloom when young and hairy at the base", (Phillips), 4-9cm x (0.3)0.4-1.0cm, about equal, solid, fragile; +/- colored as cap; dry, pruinose when young, base somewhat strigose, the hairs drying white, (Hesler)

VEIL none

ODOR not distinctive (Phillips, Hesler)

TASTE slowly and strongly peppery, (Phillips), slowly and strongly peppery, at least when young, (Hesler)

EDIBILITY no (Phillips)

HABITAT singly or in groups in damp moss under pine (Phillips)

SPORE DEPOSIT cream (Phillips, Hesler)

MICROSCOPIC spores 7.5-9 x 6-7 microns, ornamented with large warts forming a partial reticulum, prominences 0.3-0.4 microns high, (Phillips), spores 7.5-9 x 6-7 microns, elliptic, ornamentations a broken to partial reticulum with additional isolated wa

NAME ORIGIN means 'pertaining to the liver'

SIMILAR like subviscidus which has cap cuticle with a basal layer of vesiculose cells and slightly larger spores; like hysginus which has smaller round spores; like substriatus which has scarlet cap that fades to orange and yellowish spore deposit; like subflammeus which has scarlet cap that becomes orange and white spore deposit; like luculentus var. laetus which is brilliant orange and has mild then bitterish taste; like luculentus var. luculentus which has reddish cinnamon colors and taste when mature slightly bitter then acrid

SOURCES Hesler(4), Phillips*, Courtecuisse*, PNW keys

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales