

## 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 hyginus* Fr. *Epicr. Syst. Mycol.* p.337. 1838

**NOTES** features include deep vinaceous brown cap, white unchanging milk which does not stain flesh, adnate crowded narrow gills that are light yellow when young and become dull cinnamon when old, dry stem colored as gills or darker, peppery taste, and nearly round spores with warts and ridges; this description is for var. *americanus*, derived from Hesler(4), distinct in have yellow young gills that become dull cinnamon when old, dry stem, only faint odor when fresh, and nonspotting gills; var. *hyginus* cited from ID, MA, MI, TX, differs in having brownish to light gray cap yellow brown at margin, gills yellow to yellow-orange at maturity; var. *subroseus* has white milk that changes to yellow or stains yellow and is cited from MA, ME, NH, VT; *L. hyginus* var. *americanus* found at least OR, ID, CA, MI

**CAP** 4-10cm, flat to slightly depressed then broadly depressed or vase-shaped; "army brown" to "sorghum brown" (deep vinaceous brown), not zoned or only zoned near margin; slimy, bald but margin minutely tomentose at first

**FLESH** thin, brittle; whitish, MILK white, unchanging, not staining

**GILLS** adnate, crowded, narrow, forked near stem; pale yellow ("warm buff") becoming "ochraceous-buff" then dull cinnamon ("Sayal brown"), not spotted

**STEM** 4-7(10)cm x 1-2.5cm, narrowing in lower part, stuffed then hollow; colored as gills or darker; dry, bald, unpolished, sometimes scrobiculate

**VEIL** none

**ODOR** faint

**TASTE** very sharply peppery

**EDIBILITY** unknown

**HABITAT** gregarious under conifers

**SPORE DEPOSIT** pinkish buff in one collection assigned here, Methven(2) says pale buff in mass for var. *americanus*

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 6.5-8 x 6-7 microns, nearly round to broadly elliptic, reticulate or marked with broken lines to form an incomplete reticulum, prominences +/- 0.5 microns high; basidia 4-spored; pleurocystidia: macrocystidia 52-70 x 7-12 microns, fusoid to aciculate, pseudocystidia rare, filamentose, cheilocystidia similar to macrocystidia but smaller; cap trama heteromerous, cap cuticle a collapsing ixotrichoderm of narrow (2-3.5 microns wide) hyphae, (in revived sections often appearing as an ixolattice or ixocutis; stem cuticle a simple cutis

**NAME ORIGIN** probably from Greek 'hyginon', a crimson or scarlet dye

**SOURCES** Hesler(4), Bessette(2)\*

**FAMILY** Russulaceae of Order Russulales