

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 olympianus* Hesler & Smith North American Species of *Lactarius* p239. 1979

NOTES features include viscid cap that has concentric zones of bright yellow and apricot orange, white unchanging milk which stains gills dark orange or dark orange brown, white to pale fawn or dingy yellow gills that bruise dirty orange or dark orange brown, whitish stem with a white bloom, stem bruising dingy ochre at base, peppery taste, cinnamon-buff spore deposit, and elliptic spores with amyloid warts and ridges; found at least WA, OR, ID, also CO, WY, common in the Pacific Northwest

CAP 6-12cm, "broadly convex with a depressed cap center and a wavy, incurved margin that becomes uplifted, making the cap funnel-shaped"; bright yellow and apricot orange with concentric bands of color; viscid, smooth, (Phillips), 6-12cm, broad, convex with depressed disc, margin remaining decurved [downcurved] or becoming uplifted so that cap funnel-shaped; orange but with lighter and richer zones ("apricot-orange" to "zinc-orange" and alternating "light ochraceous-buff"), (Hesler)

FLESH thin, fairly fragile; white, (Phillips), thin, moderately fragile; white, (Hesler), MILK white unchanging, but staining gills dark orange or dark orange-brown, (Phillips), white, unchanging (may change to gray or olivaceous on drying) but gills staining orange to orange-brown where bruised, (Hesler)

GILLS "adnate, close to subdistant, narrow; white to pale fawn or dingy yellow, bruising dirty orange or dark orange-brown", (Phillips), adnate, close to subdistant, narrow, intervenose; white becoming "light buff" or a more dingy yellow, staining dingy orange or orange-brown when old or where bruised; edges even, (Hesler)



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STEM 4-6cm x 1.5-2.5cm, narrowing slightly toward the base; "whitish with a white bloom, bruising dingy ochre at the base", (Phillips), 4-6cm x 1.5-2(3)cm, slightly narrowed toward base or nearly equal; whitish, at first with white bloom, becoming dingy ochraceous at base where handled, (Hesler)

VEIL none

TASTE peppery (Hesler)

EDIBILITY no (Phillips)

HABITAT scattered to gregarious in conifer forests, (Phillips), scattered to gregarious in the montane conifer forests of the Pacific Northwest, (Hesler)

SPORE DEPOSIT cinnamon-buff (Phillips, Hesler)

MICROSCOPIC spores 8-11 x 7.5-9 microns, "ornamented with short or long ridges, often branched, forming a broken or complete reticulum, prominences 0.5-1.5 microns high," (Phillips), spores (7)8-11(13) x 7.5-9(11) microns, broadly elliptic, reticulum of short to long ridges, often branched forming a complete or broken network, more rarely only short ridges and isolated warts, prominences 0.5-1.5 microns high; basidia 4-spored, (or 2-spored intermixed), 45-52 x 10-12 microns; pleurocystidia: macrocystidia not distinct from pseudocystidia, often abundant, 30-52 x 3-5 microns, not projecting, filiform to aciculate, content homogeneous or +/- refractive and irregular; cheilocystidia 22-30 x 3-5 microns, similar to pleurocystidia, (Hesler)

NAME ORIGIN after the Olympic Mountains, where type was collected

SIMILAR alnicola in having more or less zoned, non-bearded cap and peppery white latex, but more orange in color and typically non-scribulate stem; other bright orange Lactarius species with white or whey-like milk not generally zonate and most are less robust

SOURCES Hesler(4), Phillips*, Ammirati(5)

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales