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 pseudomucidus Hesler & Smith North American Species of Lactarius p.356. 1979

ENGLISH NAME(S) slimy milk-cap

NOTES distinguished by dark grayish-brown cap and stem both under a thick layer of slime, and white milk; cited by Hesler & Smith from WA, OR, ID, AK, CA, and reported by Gamiet from BC, common

CAP 3-8(10)cm, broadly convex becoming flat or depressed; blackish-brown to dark gray, without zones; smooth, viscid (with a thick layer of slime when moist), margin naked, (Arora), (3)4-10(12)cm, flat-convex with inrolled margin becoming shallowly depressed to broadly funnel-shaped, margin often wavy or crenate [scalloped]; charcoal-fuscous to drab-gray; slimy, bald, margin opaque or finely striate, (Hesler)

FLESH thin, fragile; grayish, (Arora); thin and lax; grayish, in stem gray to pale fuscous, (Hesler), MILK "white, unchanging, but may stain gills tan to brownish, gray, or olive-gray", (Arora), milk-white but thin (not whey-like), when old spotting gills yellowish to tan to brown but not changing readily (yellowish dried on gills), (Hesler)

GILLS adnate to decurrent; "white to tinged gray, sometimes discolored (brownish, etc) in age", (Arora), adnate to short-decurrent, close becoming subdistant, narrow to moderately broad; white with cinereous [ash-gray] edge, spotting yellowish to tan to brown from milk, (Hesler)

STEM 4-10cm x 0.5-1cm, usually thicker below, fragile; evenly colored like cap or paler (gray); smooth, without spots, very slimy when wet, (Arora), (3)4-9(11)cm x 0.5-1.0(1.5)cm, widening downward, soon hollow and exceedingly fragile; fuscous to "benzo-brown" or paler gray; very slimy when fresh, (Hesler)

VEIL none

ODOR slight (Hesler)

TASTE slowly peppery (Arora), slowly peppery or bitterish then peppery, (Hesler), peppery (Methven)

EDIBILITY unknown (Arora)

HABITAT scattered to gregarious under conifers (Arora), solitary to gregarious under conifers, (Hesler)

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SPORE DEPOSIT white (Arora, Hesler), white to pale yellow in mass (Methven)

MICROSCOPIC spores 7-9 x 6-7 microns, broadly elliptic, with amyloid ridges, (Arora), spores 7-9 x 6-7 microns, broadly elliptic, ornamentation in form of heavy bands with branches all together a relatively distinct network, prominences to 0.5-1.2 microns; basidia 4-spored, clavate; pleurocystidia: macrocystidia abundant, 60-110 x 7-14 microns, elongate-fusoid with a long taper to a pointed apex; cheilocystidia similar to macrocystidia but smaller, (Hesler)

NAME ORIGIN means 'false [Lactarius] mucidus'

SIMILAR like kauffmanii which is larger and stouter, with a distinctly tan or paler (not gray) stem; like mucidus var. mucidus which has cap margin paler than disc which is charcoal-brown, and milk dries glaucous greenish (gray-green) on gills; like argillaceifolius and trivialis but darker and slimier; like mucidus var. fuscogriseus which has a pale cap margin and only slightly viscid stem

SOURCES Hesler(4), Arora*, Phillips*, Ammirati*, Ammirati(5), Methven(2), Gamiet(2) (accessed 23/7/01)

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales