

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 pubescens* Fries var. *pubescens* Epicr. Syst. Mycol. p.335. 1838

ENGLISH NAME(S) downy milk-cap, woolly milk-cap

NOTES features include white to cream colored slimy to dry cap with disc ochraceous to bright orange reddish or at times toned vinaceous, margin fringed with soft hairs, white unchanging milk, adnate to short decurrent crowded white to pinkish yellow gil

CAP 2.5-9cm, at first strongly convex to spherical, very soon depressed at center, becoming more so when old and often with a small navel, finally more or less expanded to saucer-shaped with an arched irregular curved-in margin, occasionally shallowly funnel-shaped; pure white to cream color, over disc ochraceous to bright orange reddish or at times toned vinaceous, bruised areas hardly differently colored (occasionally dingy rusty); slimy, dry, at times shiny but more often dull, margin at first clearly inrolled; disc +/- naked, later in large caps with fibrillose layer loosening to cause fibrillose surface, (Hesler)

FLESH firm, elastic, later soft; white, (Hesler), MILK white, unchanging, scanty when old, (Hesler), white, unchanging, unstaining, (Methven(4))

GILLS adnate to short decurrent, slightly rounded at stem but mostly evenly tapered, often with a short tooth, crowded, 0.2-0.4cm broad, seldom forked, subgills numerous; whitish to yellowish with flesh tints, in mass orange-flesh color, bruised in places dingy clay color, (Hesler)

STEM 2-5.5cm x 0.3-1.2cm, mostly narrowing downward or equal, or thickened in lower part, seldom flattened, long remaining stuffed; whitish, ochraceous from base up and with flesh-red tints, at apex long remaining whitish, often with an orange-red girdle, at base often with dingy ochraceous-brown spots but not scrobiculate; silky, pruinose in upper part, in places obscurely reticulate, white mycelium around base, (Hesler)

VEIL none

ODOR weak geranium-like (Hesler)

TASTE peppery (Hesler), bitter (Phillips)

EDIBILITY poisonous (Phillips)

HABITAT under birch (Hesler), gregarious in grass under birch (Phillips)

SPORE DEPOSIT cream color with flesh tint, Crawshay C-D, when old E, (Hesler), cream with salmon tint (Phillips)

MICROSCOPIC spores 6.5-8.5 x 5.5-6.5 microns with small warts, +/- reticulate with fine lines, (Hesler); basidia 4-spored, 38-46 x 7-8.5 microns; cystidia 60-80 x 6-9 microns, mostly projecting +/- 15 microns, (Hesler)

NAME ORIGIN means 'developing hair'

SIMILAR var. *betulae* which has scanty latex which turns yellow or stains yellow or stains white paper yellow; like *terminosus* which has larger spores; like *subvillosus* which is zonate

SOURCES Hesler(4), Phillips*

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales