

## 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 scrobiculatus* (Fr.) Fr. Epicr. Syst. Mycol. p.334. 1838

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** scrobiculate milk-cap, pitted milk-cap

**NOTES** recognized by pale yellow to dark ochre color, scrobiculate stem, and white milk that quickly turns yellow or stains exposed tissues yellow; the common North American variety is *scrobiculatus* var. *canadensis* which is characterized (Methven) by vis

**CAP** 4-15(20)cm, convex to flat with center usually depressed, when old often vase-shaped, margin inrolled when young; pale yellow to yellowish to bright ochre, the center sometimes darker, unzoned or faintly zoned; viscid when moist, smooth or scaly when old, margin typically bearded with hairs (but hairs absent or inconspicuous in var. *montanus* and var. *pubescens*)

**FLESH** thick, firm, brittle; whitish but staining yellow when exposed, MILK scanty (but copious in type variety from Europe), white, quickly turning yellow when exposed, staining yellow

**GILLS** adnate to slightly decurrent, close, whitish to pale or dull yellow, pink-tinted where bruised

**STEM** 3-11cm x (1)2-4(5)cm, equal or narrowed at base, firm, hollow when old; white to yellowish; dry, usually scrobiculate (i.e. pitted with large, glazed, darker or brighter yellow to honey-colored spots)

**VEIL** none

**ODOR** fruity

**TASTE** mild or finally slightly peppery (This is var. *canadensis*, var. *scrobiculatus* has very peppery taste in Europe but has not definitely been confirmed in North America.), (Hesler), not distinctive to slightly peppery for var. *canadensis* and *montana*, not distinctive for var. *pubescens*, (Methven)

**EDIBILITY** not recommended

**HABITAT** solitary, scattered, or in groups under northern and mountain conifers

**SPORE DEPOSIT** whitish to creamy (Crawshay A-B), but ochre in European type, (Hesler)



Michael Beug



John Dennis

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 6-10 x 5-7.5 microns, elliptic, with amyloid warts and ridges, (Arora), spores 7-9 x 5.5-7 microns, ellipsoid, ornamentation in the form of branched ridges forming at most a broken reticulum, isolated elements frequent, prominences about 0.5 microns high; basidia 4-spored, 42-48 x 8-10 microns; pleurocystidia: macrocystidia 52-78 x 6-12 microns, fusoid, acute or some with one or more subapical constrictions, projecting 5-20 microns beyond the hymenium, many with spangled content as revived in KOH, pseudocystidia scattered, filamentous; cheilocystidia 37-45 x 6-8 microns, similar in shape to macrocystidia, (Hesler & Smith for var. canadensis)

**NAME ORIGIN** means "spotted, with small erosions"

**SIMILAR** alnicola has milk that turns slowly yellow or not at all, and strongly peppery taste

**SOURCES** Arora, Phillips\*, Lincoff(2)\*, Lincoff(1)\*, Ammirati\*, Courtecuisse\*, Barron\*, Redhead(5), Hesler(4)

**FAMILY** Russulaceae of Order Russulales