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 subflammeus Hesler & Smith North American Species of Lactarius p.451. 1979

ENGLISH NAME(S) orange milk-cap

NOTES bright orange viscid cap, stem usually longer than width of cap, and white unchanging milk typify this species and others including luculentus that have traditionally passed under the name L. aurantiacus, subflammeus has bright orange to reddish brown moist to somewhat viscid cap, white unchanging milk, slightly peppery taste, white spore deposit, and cap cuticle a modified ixotrichodermium with irregularly inflated cells that do not form a cellular layer; subflammeus found at least WA, OR, ID, CO, CA

CAP 3-7cm, convex becoming shallowly depressed with margin +/- arched; scarlet when young but very soon orange ("xanthine orange") becoming duller when old; slimy-viscid, bald, naked, margin with short translucent striations at maturity, (Hesler), 2-6(7)cm, convex becoming flat or shallowly depressed; scarlet when young soon fading to bright orange and eventually dull orange, not zoned; smooth, viscid, margin naked, (Arora), (1)2-5cm, convex to flat, disc depressed, margin incurved to downcurved; brownish red to reddish brown, darkest on disc, margin paler; moist to subviscid, bald, not zoned, margin translucent-striate, (Methven)

FLESH thin, fragile, watery pinkish buff to dull orange-buff, (Hesler), thin, fragile, (Arora), 0.2-0.5cm thick at disc; light orange, not staining with exposure, (Methven), MILK milk-white, unchanging and not staining, (Hesler), white, unchanging, (Arora), white, unchanging and unstaining, (Methven)

GILLS broadly adnate to decurrent, close to (finally) subdistant, moderately broad; whitish ("pale pinkish buff") coloring +/- evenly overall to +/- concolorous with cap, (Hesler), adnate to decurrent, fairly close; whitish or colored like cap but paler, (Arora), adnate to subdecurrent, close to subdistant, narrow, rarely forked near stem; pale orange, not staining where cut, edges colored as faces, (Methven)

STEM 4-9cm x 0.8-1.5cm, enlarged downward, hollow, fragile; hoary at first, soon naked and colored as mature cap; not viscid, surface often uneven, (Hesler), 4-9cm x 0.5-1.5cm, usually rather long and slender and thicker toward the base, hollow, rigid but fragile; colored like cap; not viscid, (Arora), 2-6cm x 0.3-1.0cm, equal or widening downward, round in cross-section, hollow; dry to moist, bald; brownish orange to light brown, white to pale orange tomentum at base, (Methven)

VEIL none

ODOR slight (Hesler), mild (Arora), not distinctive (Methven)

TASTE slowly peppery (Hesler), slowly peppery, (Arora), slowly, slightly peppery (Methven)

EDIBILITY unknown (Arora)

HABITAT type under pine on coastal sand dunes, (Hesler), scattered to gregarious under pine, spruce and other conifers, (Arora), scattered to gregarious in duff, in coastal coniferous-deciduous forests (Methven for CA)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Hesler), whitish (Arora), white (Methven)

MICROSCOPIC spores 7.5-9 x 6.5-7.5 microns, elliptic, with amyloid ridges and warts, reticulum of short ridges and warts not forming a network, prominences 0.5-1.0 microns, (Hesler); basidia 4-spored, about 42 x 9 microns; pleurocystidia: macrocystidia

SIMILAR like luculentus var. laetus which has mild to bitterish taste rather than peppery, and cap cuticle an ixotrichodermium arising from an interwoven layer of filamentous hyphae: in subflammeus there are numerous inflated cells at the base of the ixo

SOURCES Hesler(4), Methven(2), Arora*, Phillips*, PNW keys

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales