

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 subviscidus* Hesler & Smith North American Species of *Lactarius* p.747. 1979

NOTES typified by burnt orange color, dry to moist or thinly viscid cap, dry stem, mild odor, white (rather than watery white) milk which does not turn yellow but may stain white paper yellow overnight, white to yellowish spore deposit, and elliptic spores with amyloid warts and ridges; found at least WA, OR

CAP 1-4cm, when young shallowly depressed with arched incurved margin, expanding to shallowly vase-shaped with wavy margin; dark mahogany-red gradually becoming brick-red or paler and fading to near "onion-skin pink", first fading on margin; subviscid to

FLESH thin; colored about as gills, (Hesler), thin, fragile; tinged cap color, (Arora), 0.2-0.4cm thick at disc; light orange, unstaining on exposure, (Methven), MILK white, unchanging, scanty, staining white paper yellow overnight, (Hesler), white, rather scanty, unchanging, may stain white paper yellow overnight, (Arora), white to whey-like, unchanging or slowly turning pale yellow, slowly staining field labels yellow, (Methven)

GILLS decurrent, crowded, many tiers of subgills, narrow, not forking appreciably; "pinkish cinnamon" or when old darker and pruinose, not discoloring where bruised, (Hesler), adnate to decurrent, close; pinkish-buff to pinkish-cinnamon, or darker when old, (Arora), adnate to subdecurrent, close to subdistant, narrow, rarely forked near stem; pale orange, not staining when cut, edges colored as faces, (Methven)

STEM 3-4cm x 0.4-0.8cm, hollow; colored as gills or nearly as red as cap; moist, bald, uneven; 2-5cm x 0.4-0.8cm, more or less equal, usually hollow; colored like cap or gills; smooth, not viscid, (Arora), 2-4.5(6)cm x 0.3-1.0cm, equal or widening slightly toward base, round in cross-section, hollow; brownish orange to brown, white to light orange tomentum at base; dry to moist, bald, (Methven)

VEIL none

ODOR none (Hesler), mild (Arora), not distinctive (Methven)

TASTE slightly acrid (Hesler), mild to slightly peppery (Arora), slightly slowly peppery (Methven)

EDIBILITY unknown (Arora)

HABITAT gregarious on very rotten conifer wood or on humus around it, (Hesler), scattered to gregarious on ground or rotten wood under conifers (Arora), scattered to gregarious in duff, in coastal coniferous-deciduous forests in association with *Picea sitchensis* (Sitka spruce), (Methven for CA)

SPORE DEPOSIT dull white to yellowish (Hesler), white to yellowish (Arora), white (Methven)

MICROSCOPIC spores 8-10 x 7-8 microns, broadly elliptic ornamentation of ridges and some isolated warts, ridges forming a partial reticulum, prominences 0.8-1.5 microns high, (Hesler); basidia 4-spored, 52-57 x 10-12 microns; pleurocystidia: macrocysti

SIMILAR like *luculentus* and *subflammeus* which have unchanging milk that does not turn white field labels yellow, and have different cap cuticle; like *substriatus* which has a subviscid to viscid cap, pale yellow spore deposit and different cap cuticle; like *thejogalus* which has moist cap that is ferruginous fading to orange-buff or dull rufous, and cellular cap cuticle without a turf; like *rubidus* but *subviscidus* has thinly viscid cap, mild odor, white rather than watery white latex, and broadly elliptic rather than round spores; like *atrobadius* which has viscid liver-colored to blackish-red cap; like *hepaticus* which has moist to dry cap, and dark buttons which become chestnut brown

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

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales