

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 torminosus* (Fr.) S.F.Gray var. *torminosus* sensu Hesler & Smith North American Species of *Lactarius* p.274. 1979

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

NOTES recognized by bearded pinkish-tinged cap, white acrid milk, spores in the range 7-10 x 6-7.5 microns, and growth with birch; var. *nordmanensis* is distinguished by milk that turns bright yellow by itself, turns bright yellow in KOH, stains white paper yellow, or stains the gills yellow or ochraceous, whereas var. *torminosus* has white unchanging milk that does turn white paper yellow or stain gills; *torminosus* sometimes parasitized by brownish mold-like *Hypomyces torminosum*; description derived from Hesler except where noted; *torminosus* var. *torminosus* found at least ID, also NS, ON, AK, CO, ME, MI, MN, MO, NY, VT

CAP 5-12cm, convex, convex-depressed or flat-depressed, expanding to shallow funnel-shaped, margin incurved; pale dull pink to the whitish margin, the pink gradually fading to whitish on standing; central part viscid and bald at first, often somewhat zonate, margin bearded at least when young, marginal area typically white fibrillose

FLESH firm, becoming flaccid; white, at times tinged flesh color, MILK white, not changing, not staining the gills

GILLS short-decurrent, close to crowded, narrow, some forking near stem; whitish becoming pale vinaceous or cream color tinged vinaceous, when old usually becoming pale tan

STEM 3-7cm x 0.6-1.5(2.0)cm, fragile, stuffed becoming hollow; colored as cap or paler; dry, bald or pruinose, sometimes spotted

VEIL none

ODOR mild

TASTE promptly burning-peppery

EDIBILITY not recommended, but pickled in Europe and added to coffee in Norway, (Arora)

HABITAT on soil in coniferous and hardwood stands, but with birch almost always present

SPORE DEPOSIT cream

MICROSCOPIC spores 7.5-9(10) x 6-7.5 microns, elliptic, with amyloid ridges, reticulum a broken to partial network with numerous free ends and also a few isolated warts, prominences 0.2-0.5 microns high; basidia 4-spored, 37-45 x 9-10.5 microns; pleurocystidia: macrocystidia 45-52 x 6-8 microns, fusoid-ventricose, acute, many with a gradual taper to apex, with 0-2 or more subapical constrictions, content slightly granular, pseudocystidia not observed; cheilocystidia 30-52 x 4.5-7 microns, similar to macrocystidia

NAME ORIGIN 'torminosus' means "full of sharpness, causing colic"

SIMILAR like *pubescens* which has smaller spores (6.5-8.5 x 5.5-6.5 microns), *torminosus* var. *torminosus* is often somewhat zoned unlike *pubescens* var. *pubescens*; like *subvillosus* which is more strongly zoned (only var. *torminosus* of *torminosus* is zoned at all)

SOURCES Hesler(4), Arora*, Lincoff(2)*, Lincoff(1)*, Kibby*, Courtecuisse*

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales