

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) *Leucopaxillus gentianeus* (Quelet) Kotlaba; *Leucopaxillus amarus* (A. & S. ex Fr.) Kuehner (misapplied name)

ENGLISH NAME(S) bitter brown *Leucopaxillus*

NOTES recognized by dull brown to reddish-brown cap, white gills, absent veil, bitter taste, and white mycelium permeating the humus around base and often adhering to stem when picked; reported from at least BC, WA, OR, CA

CAP 5-12(15)cm, broadly convex with inrolled margin when young, becoming flat or slightly depressed; dark brown to brown, pecan-brown, or reddish-brown, evenly colored or paler at margin; dry, unpolished, smooth, sometimes cracked or faded when old, margin often obscurely ribbed

FLESH thick, firm, dry; white

GILLS typically adnate but ranging from notched to slightly decurrent by lines, close, narrow; white

STEM 4-10cm x 0.5-2(4)cm, equal or enlarged below, smooth, dry, solid; white or sometimes discolored brownish below, base embedded in a copious white mycelial mat

VEIL none

ODOR mild or pungent

TASTE very bitter

EDIBILITY no

HABITAT scattered to gregarious (often in rings) under conifers and oaks

SPORE DEPOSIT white

MICROSCOPIC spores 4-6 x 3-5 microns, nearly round, warty, amyloid, cheilocystidia numerous

NAME ORIGIN means "bitter" (Latin)

SOURCES Arora*(as *L. amarus*), Phillips*(as *L. amarus*), Lincoff(2)*(as *L. amarus*), Ammirati*(as *L. amarus*), Schalkwijk-Barendsen*(as *L. amarus*), Courtecuisse*(as *L. amarus*)

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales