

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) *Macrocystidia cucumis* (Pers. ex Fr.) Heim
Treballs del Museu de Ciencies Naturals el Barcelona 15: 127. 1934.

ENGLISH NAME(S) cucumber-scented mushroom

NOTES features include hygrophanous smooth to velvety cap that is dark brown to reddish brown to ochre tawny with paler striate margin, close broad adnexed fringed gills that are white becoming pink, cap colored velvety stem, strong fishy-cucumber odor, pinkish to ochre-brown spore deposit, elliptic smooth spores, and large bulbous based acuminate cystidia that occur on all surfaces, Stuntz(2) examined collections from WA, OR, commonly reported from BC, Breitenbach & Kranzlin give distribution as North America, Europe, Asia, North Africa

CAP 1-5cm, bell-shaped to conical when young, with small umbo, margin straight; hygrophanous, dark brown to blackish to reddish-brown to ochre-tawny (the margin often paler), fading to buff; moist, smooth to velvety or silky

FLESH brittle in cap, tough in stem

GILLS adnexed, close, broad; white or pale ochre or buff or pink; edges fringed minutely (large cystidia present on gills)

STEM 2.5-5cm x 0.2-0.4cm, round to slightly flattened, hollow; similarly colored to cap, paler in upper part; dry, minutely velvety, fibrous-brittle

ODOR usually strong and fishy or reminiscent of cucumber

TASTE farinaceous

HABITAT single to several in grassy areas, May to December

SPORE DEPOSIT pinkish to ochre-brown to red-brown



Fred Stevens (MykoWeb)



Paul Kroeger



Michael Beug

MICROSCOPIC spores 7.5-10 x 4-5 microns, elliptic, smooth, nearly colorless to pale pink; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia large, 60-100 x 12-24 microns, ventricose-fusoid; cap cuticle of repent, radial hyphae with membrane pigment; clamps present, (Hansen), 8-9 x 3-4 microns, elliptic, smooth, colorless to pale pink, (Lincoff), basidia 4-spored 22-30 x 6-8 microns, cylindric, with basal clamp; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia 60-95 x 15-22, lanceolate, (Breitenbach), clamp connections abundant, at least in cap cuticle, (Stuntz)

NAME ORIGIN means 'cucumber'

SOURCES Lincoff(2)*, Courtecuisse*, Arora, Hansen, L.(2), Breitenbach(3)*, Stuntz(2)

FAMILY Marasmiaceae of Order Agaricales