

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) *Mycena alnicola* Smith Contrib. Univ. Mich. Herb. 5: 23. 1941

ENGLISH NAME(S) 'alder *Mycena*'

NOTES Section *Typicae* (Smith), Section *Fragilipedes* (Maas Geesteranus); features include hygrophanous brownish to gray-brown striate cap with pale bluish bloom at first, pale gray interveined gills, fragile stem that is gray-brown with a bluish cast and a dense white bloom at first, growth on alder logs, white spore deposit, and elliptic smooth amyloid spores; Maas Geesteranus says "It may well be asked whether *Mycena alnicola* is a truly different species from *M. abramsii*."; description derived from Smith(1); found in WA (Smith), reported from BC by Gamiet

CAP 1-2.5cm, elliptic becoming obtusely conic, finally broadly bellshaped or convex, margin appressed to stem at first; hygrophanous but scarcely changing color when moisture escapes, brownish to gray-brown; pale bluish bloom at first, soon polished and moist, translucent-striate when mature and moist, becoming grooved

FLESH thin, fragile; gray

GILLS adnate, ascending, subdistant (20-30 reach stem), 2 tiers of subgills, narrow to moderately broad (about 0.2cm), interveined; pale gray

STEM 4-6cm x 0.15-0.2cm, equal, hollow, fragile, gray-brown with a bluish cast, at first with a dense white bloom, soon polished and moist

VEIL none

ODOR mild, but var. odora somewhat radish-like

TASTE mild, but var. odora somewhat radish-like

HABITAT scattered to tufted on alder logs

SPORE DEPOSIT white

MICROSCOPIC spores (6)7-9(10) x 4-5 microns, elliptic, smooth, amyloid; basidia 4-spored; cheilocystidia 26-40 x 9-15 microns, clavate to broadly fusoid, becoming elongated, subcylindric, fusoid-ventricose or sometimes with one or two fingerlike protuberances, the apices smooth or with a slight resinous incrustation when revived in KOH, pleurocystidia similar to cheilocystidia, rare to scattered

NAME ORIGIN means 'living on alder'

SIMILAR *abramsii* of Europe, eastern North America and California, which grows in a variety of habitats, Maas Geesteranus says "It may well be asked whether *Mycena alnicola* is a truly different species from *M. abramsii*."

SOURCES Smith(1), Gamiet(1), Maas Geesteranus

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales