

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 leptcephala* (Fr.) Gillet Les Hymen. p.267. 1874; *Mycena kauffmaniana* Smith; *Mycena metata* sensu J. Schroet., Kuehner; *Mycena chlorinella* (Lange) Singer

NOTES *Typicae* (Smith), Section *Fragilipedes* (Maas Geesteranus); gray with alkaline odor, habitat on ground as well as wood, other features include somewhat hygrophanous moist striate cap which is pruinose at first, subdistant gills, stem that is white-pruinose becoming polished except at top, and microscopic characters; Smith describes another species, *Mycena kauffmaniana*, the type of which according to Maas Geesteranus is really *Mycena leptcephala*, and the other supporting material of which is from at least two other species; *Mycena metata* sensu J. Schroet., Kuehner is not to be confused with *Mycena metata* (Fr.) Kummer which is equivalent to *Mycena metata* (Fr.) Quelet; *leptcephala* from at least WA, OR, also NS, ON, MB, south to CA and NC, including MD, ME, MI, NY, Europe, Iceland, Breitenbach & Kranzlin give distribution as North America, Europe, Asia, North Africa, Australia

CAP 1-3(4)cm, obtusely conic with margin pressed to stem at first, becoming conic to convex or bell-shaped; somewhat hygrophanous, fuscous to blackish fading to light gray, hoary-pruinose becoming bald, moist, translucent-striate becoming grooved, (Smith), up to 2cm, conic or parabolic to bellshaped, without or with umbo, flattening with age; somewhat hygrophanous, very dark gray, sepia brown with a grayish shade, dark brown to almost black-brown with a violaceous sheen when very young (caused by pruinosity), also at times of a somewhat warmer brown at center, pallescent (becoming paler) when drying, turning gray-brown, the margin paler to whitish; dry but slightly lubricous when wet, at first pruinose, becoming bald, grooved, translucent-striate, (Maas Geesteranus)



Ben Woo

FLESH thin, fragile; grayish (Smith), thin, watery sepia brown to whitish, (Maas Geesteranus)

GILLS ascending-adenate, sometimes with decurrent tooth, subdistant (18-27 reach stem), narrow, 1-2 tiers subgills; pallid or ash-gray, edges pallid, (Smith), ascending, fairly broadly adnate, occasionally decurrent with short tooth, 14-26 reach stem, up to 0.3cm broad, moderately ventricose (broader in middle), becoming wrinkled to veined, interveined; fairly dark, sepia-tinted gray-brown, paler with age, the edges colored as faces or paler to whitish, (Maas Geesteranus)

STEM (2)4-6(12)cm x 0.1-0.2cm, equal, very fragile, hollow; usually blue-black at first (darker than cap) but soon dingy brownish gray then pallid or ash-gray; white-pruinose over all becoming polished, base bald to white-strigose (with coarse hairs), (Smith), 2-6cm x 0.1-0.2cm, equal or widening somewhat in lower part, fragile, hollow, round in cross-section, straight or curved in lower part; gray-brown to sepia brownish, darker in lower part, paler in upper part, sometimes with a lilaceous tinge when very young; smooth, shiny, minutely puberulous (downy) all over, becoming bald for the greater part (except at top), the base with long coarse flexuous whitish fibrils, (Maas Geesteranus)

VEIL none

ODOR weakly nitrous or alkaline (stronger if crushed), (Smith), nitrous (by some collectors experienced as of potato skin or alkaline, (Maas Geesteranus)

TASTE acidulous (Smith) or according to one report disagreeable (Maas Geesteranus)

HABITAT scattered to gregarious on fallen sticks and on needle carpets under conifers (Smith), on tree stumps and decayed and often moss-covered wood of both deciduous and coniferous trees, on fallen branches, among grass and moss, in sheltered as well as exposed habitats, (Maas Geesteranus)

SPORE DEPOSIT white

MICROSCOPIC spores 7-10 x 4-6 microns, broadly elliptic, smooth, amyloid, (Smith); basidia usually 4-spored, (2- and 3-spored forms found on which the spores measured 11-12 x 6-6.5 microns or 8-10 x 3.5-4.5 microns); pleurocystidia scattered, rare or absent

NAME ORIGIN 'leptos' means 'thin' or 'delicate', 'kephale' means 'head'

SIMILAR like stipitata but leptocephala differs by more slender fruiting body, non-clustered growth, occurrence primarily on soil and more rarely stumps, and the swollen end cells in the cortical layer of the stem apex

SOURCES Smith(1), Maas Geesteranus, Breitenbach(3)*

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales