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 metata (Fr.) Quelet Champ. Jura et Vosges. p 106. 1872

NOTES Section Typicae (Smith), Section Filipedes (Maas Geesteranus); characterized by winy-brown color, faint but sharp odor, spiny cystidia, and habitat under conifers, description from Smith except where noted; found at least WA, OR, ID, also ON, NS, CA, MI, NY, PA, also Europe

CAP (0.5)1.0-2.5cm, obtusely conic to convex, sometimes bellshaped, the margin often flaring and split; "army brown" to "fawn color" or "avellaneous" over disc, with "warm buff" to grayish to whitish margin, or sometimes entire cap pale ash-gray with tinge of wine-color; at first with faint bloom (pruinose) becoming bald, somewhat translucent-striate

FLESH thin, very fragile; pallid to avellaneous

GILLS adnate, ascending, close, narrow to moderately broad; white at first, soon tinged creamy to winy-buff, edges pallid; edges usually toothed

STEM 3-9cm x 0.1-0.25cm, equal, very fragile, sometimes blue black when young but fading to "wood brown" or pale avellaneous, faintly pruinose in upper part, hairy base, otherwise bald, stem translucent when moist

VEIL none

ODOR sharp, rather faint (hardly alkaline), Maas Geesteranus says of Mycena metata (Fr.) Kummer odor none or hard to describe when fresh, of iodoform on drying out

TASTE slight, acidulous

HABITAT scattered to gregarious under conifers

SPORE DEPOSIT white

MICROSCOPIC spores 7-10(12) x 4-6 microns, narrowly elliptic to pear-shaped, smooth, amyloid; basidia 2- to 3-spored, occasionally 4-spored; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia similar, rare to scattered on sides, abundant on edges of gills, 27-38 x 9-17 microns, clavate to capitate, pedicel usually slender, head echinulate (finely spiny)

NAME ORIGIN means "measured" (Latin)

SIMILAR filopes has cap lacking pink tinge, cap margin of young fruiting bodies closely surrounding stem like a collar, sessile cheilocystidia more abundant than stalked ones, hyphal ends of cortical layer of stem numerous, whereas metata has flesh-reddish tones from young stages or at least when old, cap not narrowly enclosing the stem when young, cheilocystidia mostly stalked, terminal cells of cortical layer of stem absent or rare and difficult to find, (Breitenbach(3))

SOURCES Smith(1), Breitenbach(3)*

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales