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 rosella (Fr.) Quelet Champ. Jura et Vosges p.241. 1872; Prunulus rosellus Murrill

NOTES Section Calodontes (Smith), Section Luculentae (Maas Geesteranus); characterized by flexible nature of fruiting body, pale rose colors, marginate gills, and two different types of cystidia on gill edges; found BC, WA, OR, ID, common, also NS, ON, CA, MI, Europe

CAP (0.5)1-2(3.0)cm, obtusely or sharply conic with incurved margin at first, then convex to bell-shaped, sometimes becoming almost flat when old, occasionally with small conic umbo; bright pink tinged with gray on disc, the margin a clearer pink at firs

FLESH thin, pliant; dingy pinkish to whitish, (Smith), very thin, colored as cap, (Maas Geesteranus)

GILLS adnate, usually horizontally but sometimes arcuate, sometimes slightly notched, moderately close to subdistant, 15-24 reach stem, moderately broad (about 0.25cm), 1 or 2 tiers of subgills, interveined; pale to rather bright rose color, the edges a darker sordid reddish color (marginate), (Smith), ascending, finally more or less horizontal, broadly adnate, decurrent with a tooth, 15-23 reaching stem, up to 0.4cm broad, more or less ventricose (broader in middle); fairly pale lilaceous pink or pinkish incarnate to dingy pink, pallescent with age, the edge reddish to purplish; minutely punctate with reddish dots (pleurocystidia), (Maas Geesteranus)

STEM 2.5-7cm x 0.1-0.15(0.25)cm, equal, straight or flexuous (bent both ways), round in cross-section, rather flexible, translucent; pale rose or grayish rose, clearer in upper part, more sordid in lower part; lubricous but not viscid, bald in upper part, with base covered in rough white hairs, (Smith), 2.5-6.0cm x 0.05-0.2cm, equal, straight, curved in lower part, round in cross-section; originally dark reddish flesh-color, fading to fairly pale dingy yellowish pink or yellowish incarnate, covered with a red pruina above and with minute innate red to purplish fibrils farther down; smooth, the base covered with long coarse flexuous yellowish to whitish fibrils, (Maas Geesteranus)

VEIL none

ODOR not distinctive (Smith, Maas Geesteranus)

TASTE not distinctive (Smith, Maas Geesteranus)

EDIBILITY unknown

HABITAT gregarious in large troops or scattered on needle beds in coniferous forests, (Smith), in coniferous woods (Picea, Pinus), (Maas Geesteranus)

SPORE DEPOSIT white

MICROSCOPIC spores 7-9 x 4-5 microns, elliptic, amyloid, (Smith); basidia 4-spored, pleurocystidia abundant, arising from the gill trama and projecting 15-30 microns beyond the basidia, 60-80 x 10-14 microns, narrowly fusoid-ventricose (spindle-shaped - wider in middle), smooth, with reddish contents when fresh, cheilocystidia 21-36 x 9-15 microns, club-shaped to somewhat spindle-shaped, covered over all with short blunt projections, the top occasionally elongated and smooth and then only the wider middle part roughened, contents dark reddish, (Smith)

NAME ORIGIN means 'little rose'

SIMILAR like strobilinoides which is flame-scarlet to brilliant orange, occasionally fading to yellow or whitish, has young gills edged with flame-scarlet rather than sordid rose, and has different pleurocystidia; capillaripes which has less bright colors, is less fragile, and may have nitrous (bleachlike) odor

SOURCES Smith(1), Phillips*, Lincoff(1)*, Courtecuisse*, Barron*

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales