

## 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 subcana* A.H. Smith N. Am. Spec. Mycena p.73. 1947

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** neutral gray *Mycena*

**NOTES** Section Corticolae (Smith) growing on bark, Section Fragilipedes (Maas Geesteranus); characterized by broad hygrophanous hoary grayish striate cap with short grayish stem, well-spaced whitish to pale gray gills, mild odor and taste, growth on dead twigs and branches usually above forest floor, broadly elliptic spores, and microscopic characters; rather common at least in WA, OR, CA

**CAP** (0.5)1-2.5(3)cm, ovoid when young, expanding to obtusely conic, bellshaped or convex; hygrophanous, dark ashy gray on disc with paler ashy gray margin and fading to pale ash-gray overall; moist, hoary pruinose when young, becoming naked but retaining a somewhat hoary appearance at maturity, translucent-striate almost to disc, margin radially rugulose (wrinkled), (Smith), 0.5-2.5(3)cm, oval or obtusely conical to bell-shaped becoming convex when old; grayish to pale gray, usually darker in center, sometimes fading to whitish; not viscid, smooth or with hoary sheen, translucent-striate nearly to center when moist, (Arora)

**FLESH** thin, fragile; pallid gray, not changing when bruised, (Smith), thin; grayish, (Arora)

**GILLS** adnate, subdistant to distant at maturity, narrow to moderately broad, interveined; whitish to pale cinereous, edges colored as faces; edges even, (Smith), attached (usually adnate), well-spaced; whitish to pale gray, (Arora)

**STEM** 1.5-3cm x 0.15-0.3cm, equal or with somewhat bulbous base; colored as cap, pale cinereous or nearly white, occasionally the base stained sordid purplish brown when old; frosted at first soon smooth, white hairs at base, (Smith), 1.5-6cm x 0.15-0.3cm, equal or enlarged at base; cap-colored or paler; smooth, with downy white hairs at base, (Arora)

**VEIL** none

**ODOR** not distinctive (Smith), mild (Arora)

**TASTE** not distinctive (Smith)

**EDIBILITY** unknown

**HABITAT** single to gregarious on dead sticks, branches or trunks of coniferous trees, particularly cedar, occasionally alder and tanbark oak, usually above forest floor, (Smith), solitary or in pairs or small groups (not clusters) on dead sticks and branches, sometimes on living trees, (Arora)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** white

**MICROSCOPIC** spores (7)8-10 x 5-6 microns, broadly elliptic, smooth, amyloid, (Smith); basidia 4-spored; pleurocystidia not differentiated, cheilocystidia (30)40-64 x 10-18 microns, fusoid-ventricose with obtuse apices or clavate, some abruptly ventricose with a long-drawn-out neck, smooth; gill trama homogeneous, pale vinaceous brown in iodine; cap trama with a thin adnate pellicle, a well-defined hypoderm and the remainder filamentous, vinaceous brown in iodine, (Smith)

**SIMILAR** occidentalis which grows in clusters on conifer stumps and logs; like parabolica which according to Arora "has a growth habit in between that of *M. subcana* and *M. occidentalis* - it grows in groups or small clusters on rotting wood and has a sooty black cap that fades to gray with age"; like fragillima which has downy stem at first (rather than frosted at first), and has a different shape and habitat; like leptcephala; like murina

**SOURCES** Smith(1), Arora\*

**FAMILY** Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales