

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.

[Click for further information about MMPNW](#)

Many illustrations need confirmation. Do not use this information to determine edibility.

I have read and agreed to the [disclaimer](#) and [copyright information](#).

LATIN NAME(S) *Mycena tenax* A.H.Smith Mycologia 28: 414. 1936

NOTES Section Fuliginellae (Smith), Section Insignes (Maas Geesteranus); distinguished by relatively large size (not as big as *galericulata*), tenacious consistency, gray to gray brown color, gelatinous gill edges, cap and stem that are at least somewhat viscid, and strong odor and taste; description derived from Smith(1) except where indicated; found at least WA, OR, also NS, ON, CA, NY

CAP 1-3cm, oval to convex soon broadly conic or obtusely umbonate, cap center flattened or slightly depressed, margin becoming somewhat flared; fuscous to hair brown; surface bald and somewhat viscid, pellicle separable, striate to abruptly translucent watery disc when old

FLESH pliant, tough; pallid

GILLS adnate or slight decurrent tooth, close, 24-27 reach stem, narrow (0.2-0.3cm); pallid to grayish

STEM 5-7.5cm x 0.2-0.3cm, equal, hollow, tenacious consistency; color as cap (gray to brown) or paler; bald, somewhat viscid to viscid, pruinose toward top, base white strigose

VEIL none

ODOR strong, disagreeable, rancid-farinaceous, or green watermelon or watermelon rind, (Smith), strong, rancid-farinaceous or like cucumber, (Castellano)

TASTE strong, disagreeable, rancid-farinaceous, or green watermelon or watermelon rind, (Smith), strong, rancid-farinaceous or like cucumber, (Castellano)

HABITAT densely gregarious under conifers, (Smith), densely gregarious in duff under *Abies*, *Pseudotsuga*, *Picea*, and *Sequoia*, spring and fall, (Castellano)

SPORE DEPOSIT white

MICROSCOPIC spores 6.5-8 x 3.5-4 microns, narrowly elliptic, pointed at one end, amyloid, (Smith); cheilocystidia clubshaped and with fingerlike projections over the top, gelatinizing as in *M. vulgaris*, colorless, dimensions not given but Maas Geesteranus gives 9-21 x 4.5-10 microns, pleurocystidia scattered, 60-70 x 8-12 microns, (Maas Geesteranus gives 27-105 x 9-16 microns), narrowly fusiform to subcylindric with abruptly pointed tops, some with slightly thickened walls

NAME ORIGIN means 'holding fast'

SIMILAR like *quinaultensis* but has strong odor and thick rather than thin gelatinous pellicle on cap; like *Mycena rorida* but has gray-brown to pale gray cap and strong disagreeable odor

SOURCES Smith(1), Castellano(2)

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales