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 vulgaris (Fries) Quelet Champ. Jura et Vosges p.108. 1872; Mycena melleidisca Murrill; Mycena militaris sensu Smith

ENGLISH NAME(S) common Mycena

NOTES Section Fuliginellae (Smith), Section Fuliginellae (Maas Geesteranus); features include small size, viscid gray cap with dark striations, close gills that are whitish to pale gray, glutinous cartilaginous stem that is cap-colored or paler in upper part, growth on needle beds, white spore deposit, and microscopic characters; this description adapted from Smith except where indicated; found at least WA, OR, ID, also MB, NS, ON, CA, CO, MD, MI, NY, TN, common, (Smith), known also from Europe, northern Africa, Japan, (Maas Geesteranus)

CAP 0.8-1.5cm, obtuse to convex when young, sometimes with a sharp conic umbo becoming broadly convex with or without umbo, finally flat, the cap center depressed when old, margin soon spreading and often wavy; not hygrophanous, smoke gray near margin, fuscous on cap center fading to smoke gray or yellow gray all over; bald, very viscid with moist separable skin, translucent-striate to disc, striations dark, grooved when faded

FLESH thin, pliant; pallid grayish

GILLS bluntly adnate, soon arcuate, becoming decurrent, close, 13-17 reach stem, 1-2 tiers subgills, moderately broad (up to 0.2cm), sometimes forking near base; whitish to pale gray

STEM 2-6cm x 0.1-0.15cm according to Maas Geesteranus, 2-3cm x 0.1cm according to Smith, equal, cartilaginous, tubular, bald, glutinous or merely viscid, color as cap or paler in upper part, slightly hairy at base

VEIL none

ODOR slight, somewhat nauseous or radish-like, in Europe can be farinaceous according to Maas Geesteranus

TASTE slightly disagreeable

HABITAT on needle beds under conifers, especially in cool wet weather

SPORE DEPOSIT white

MICROSCOPIC spores 6-8(9) x 3.5-4 microns, drop-shaped to somewhat elliptic, smooth, amyloid, sometimes weakly amyloid; basidia 4-spored, 28-32 x 6-7 microns, pleurocystidia none, gill edges gelatinous with clavate-roughened cheilocystidia embedded in the matrix (these are often very indistinct); gill trama evenly floccose, subhymenium not gelatinous, purplish brown in iodine; cap trama with a thick separable gelatinous pellicle, the remainder homogeneous, floccose and becoming purplish brown in iodine; stem with a conspicuous outer layer of gelatinous hyphae, the inner part of large hyphae which become purplish red in iodine

NAME ORIGIN means "common"

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

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales