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.

Michael Beug

LATIN NAME(S) Nolanea sericea (Bull.) P.D.Orton Trans. Br. mycol. Soc. 43: 179. 1960; Entoloma sericeum

ENGLISH NAME(S) silky Nolanea

NOTES Section Cosmeoexonema; distinctive by fuscous to dark gray brown cap which is opaque at first but quickly becomes translucent-striate, dark gray-brown gills, silvery translucent-striate stem which is light brown at first and darkens with age, and farinaceous odor; microscopically it has isodiametric spores, incrusted pigmentation only and clamps at the base of basidia; one of the commonest Nolanea species throughout western North America; found at least BC, WA, OR, ID, AK, CA, CO, MI, NM, very common

CAP 1.5-6cm, convex to broadly convex, typically umbonate, often depressed around umbo with age, margin incurved to decurved (downcurved) then decurved and in many eventually flat to upturned and at times wavy-undulate, frequently extending past gills by 0.1cm; hygrophanous, at first fuscous to black to very dark gray-brown, becoming on picking dark gray brown and quickly fading to dark brown with lighter margin, eventually fading entirely pale gray brown to brownish orange with a gray tint; bald, shiny then dull, opaque at first and quickly becoming translucent-striate at least partway to disc, (Largent), 2-4(6.5)cm, convex becoming flat or with a slight umbo; hygrophanous, dark brown (umber) to dark olive-brown to grayish-brown or hazel-brown when moist, paler or grayer with a silky, often streaked appearance when dry; smooth but not viscid, (Arora)

FLESH 0.1-0.5cm at gill attachment; colored as cap, then grayish pallid, (Largent), thin, watery, (Arora)

GILLS narrowly adnexed to uncinate and in some even sinuate, subdistant, moderately broad to often broad and rarely ventricose, 0.25-0.9cm broad; dark grayish brown when young, edges colored as faces; edges smooth then eroded, (Largent), adnate to adnexed to notched, or nearly free; pallid to grayish or tinged cap color, then dusted pinkish with spores, (Arora)

STEM 3-7cm x 0.2-0.6cm, equal to enlarged downward, 0.2-0.9cm at base, terete but often compressed and then up to 0.4cm wide in one direction and 0.9cm in the other (at top); at first grayish to light grayish brown, and quickly darkening to dark gray brown by handling or naturally, the base lighter; silvery and longitudinally striate, (Largent), 2.5-5(10)cm x (0.2)0.3-0.8cm, equal or with a slightly enlarged base, often short, fragile; grayish brown or colored like cap, the base whitish; longitudinally fibrillose-striate and silky when dry, (Arora)

VEIL absent

ODOR strongly farinaceous, particularly when crushed or cut, typically not rancid but more like cucumber, (Largent), usually farinaceous, at least when crushed, (Arora), of clean linen (Schalkwijk-Barendsen)

TASTE strongly farinaceous (Largent)

EDIBILITY unknown (Arora)

HABITAT solitary, scattered, or rarely gregarious in lawns, grassy areas, or in mossy humus on hard-packed soil, typically in the open, along roadsides, or along trails, (Largent), scattered to gregarious in pastures, on lawns or hillside, in waste places, sometimes also in woods or under willows, tends to fruit during rainy spells rather than follow them, (Arora)

SPORE DEPOSIT deep salmon-pinkish or cinnamon-pinkish (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC (6.3)7.4-10.0(11.4) x (5.6)6.0-9.3(9.8) microns, 5-6 sided, distinctly angular, (Largent); basidia 4-spored, 32.4-48.1 x 9.3-13.2 microns, easily separated but in clumps; pleurocystidia absent, cheilocystidia absent; clamps typically present at base of basidia but very difficult to see because of the strong clumping nature of basidia, typically absent elsewhere, (Largent), spores 8-13 x 6-9 microns, elliptic but angular-nodulose, smooth, inamyloid, (Arora)

NAME ORIGIN means "silky"

SIMILAR like fusco-ortonii which has broadly convex bald cap, mild odor, under oaks or conifers; like edulis which has depressed convex bald cap, mild odor, under conifers or in grass; like incano-squamulosa which has broadly convex cap that is hoary or has colorless fine scales, farinaceous odor, under conifers; like Entoloma alpicola which has gray to brown cap with olive margin, mild odor, under conifers

SOURCES Largent*, Arora*, Ammirati(as Entoloma)*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Courtecuisse(as Entoloma)*

FAMILY Entolomataceae of Order Agaricales