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) Phaeocollybia ammiratii Norvell Can. J. Bot. 78: 1061. 2000

NOTES member of the kauffmanii complex which is characterized by robust stature, viscid brown caps, thick fleshy cartilaginous stems, vertical monopodial pseudorhizae, large (>8 x 5 microns) beaked spores, and thin-walled clavate cheilocystidia (see kauffmanii for further details); ammiratii differentiated from others in complex most easily by the frequent clamp connections that are particularly noticeable on the cheilocystidia and narrow suprapellicular hyphae; the dried cap usually has a gold metallic sheen unique within the complex, see SIMILAR for some other macroscopic differences; found BC, WA, OR, CA, CHEMICAL REACTIONS syringaldazine: pseudorhizal cuticle alone weakly reactive (pale magenta after 30 minutes); KOH: no change or slightly brown; fluorescence: intense pale yellow in young gills, becoming less intense as spores obscure gill faces

CAP 4.0-8.0(11.5)cm, convex with tightly inrolled outer margin, expanding to broadly bellshaped with low frequently papillate umbo and incurved to straight outer margin (edge not inrolled as elsewhere in the complex); when young dull ocher to pale butterscotch overall or distinctly zonate with red-brown disc, tawny outer margin, and pale yellow-brown edges, becoming tawny to butterscotch overall in maturity, dried cap distinctly metallic, pale copper; viscid to glutinous when wet, bald, opaque, nonstriate

FLESH confluent in cap and stem; in cap 0.3-0.8(1.2)cm thick at disc, very pale pink-white or yellow-white, when wet often developing a 0.1-0.3cm wide dark brown band adjacent to gills, in stem firm, pale cream to pale pinkish white

GILLS free to narrowly attached, crowded when young, close when mature (gills + subgills 11-30 at cap edge, 9-20 at midpoint), subgills in 3-7 irregularly intermixed tiers, narrow when young, broader to 1.0cm when mature, ventricose, thin; orange-cream when young, orange tones later obscured by cinnamon spores; even young edges becoming serrulate (finely toothed)

STEM 2.5-6(10.5)cm above ground, combined with pseudorhiza up to or greater than 30cm, 0.6-1.5(1.8)cm wide at top, central to off-center, swollen and ventricose when immature, more or less equal to ground level when mature, unbranched pseudorhiza up to 5/6 of overall length, gradually narrowing to a fleshy narrow straight or loosely coiled blunt origin, stem stuffed, cartilaginous rind 0.2-0.4cm thick; top generally colored as gills, pale cream or pinkish white when young, often flushed with orange when old, lower stem grading to tawny with a characteristic dingy vinaceous tinge above and below ground level, pseudorhiza vinaceous to tawny above a pale buff to salmon origin, dried stems distinctly burgundy; dry, appressed fibrillose under hand lens with occasional detached fibrils, longitudinally lined

VEIL occasionally evident as fibrillose patches on the part of the stem above the ground or on young cap margin

ODOR "distinctly cucumber-farinaceous when cut or crushed", also referred to as watermelon-like

TASTE "somewhat unpleasant and often bitter, reminiscent of bitter cucumbers"

HABITAT solitary to clustered under mixed conifers (Picea, Tsuga, Abies) or in mixed deciduous-coniferous forests (Pinus, Lithocarpus, Pseudotsuga)

SPORE DEPOSIT pale cinnamon brown ("pinkish cinnamon")

MICROSCOPIC spores 9 x 5.5 +/- 0.3 x 0.4 microns, range 8.4-9.2(10) x 5-6(6.5) microns, fusoid-elliptic in face view, almond-shaped to lemon-shaped with inconspicuous to pronounced apical beak in side view, round in cross-section or slightly compressed

NAME ORIGIN "In honor of Dr. Joe Ammirati, who first noted the presence of a P.kauffmanii-like species with clamp connections in the Pacific Northwest."

SIMILAR like kauffmanii sensu stricto but ammiratii has "slightly more fragile stature, straight to only slightly inrolled mature pileus margin, and characteristically vinaceous lower aerial stipe", and the dried cap usually has a gold metallic sheen; in ammiratii syringaldazine reaction is only reactive in pseudorhizal pellis (weak to moderate), whereas in kauffmanii, redheadii, and benzokauffmanii all tissues turn rapidly deep magenta; like luteosquamulosa when ammiratii is young and ocher-colored, but luteosquamulosa has nonviscid appressed fibrillose cap and a negative syringaldazine response

SOURCES Norvell(2)

FAMILY Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales