

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) *Pholiota pulchella* Smith & Hesler var. *pulchella* North American Species of *Pholiota* p.298. 1968

NOTES features include dark vinaceous brown to gray brown viscid to glutinous cap that has scattered yellow fibrillose scales from veil and patches of veil tissue along margin, unchanging "olive-buff" to greenish watery gray flesh, subdistant broad fringed gills that are "pale olive-buff" or a little more green when young, near "buffy-brown" when old, or finally more rusty, greenish-yellow to yellow stem which is fibrillose-granulose at top and covered in lower part by "clay-colored" fibrils or zones and patches, growth on conifer debris and humus, and microscopic characters; found at least WA, OR, ID

CAP 2-3.5cm, obtuse when young expanding to obtusely bell-shaped or nearly flat-umbonate when old, usually decurved (downcurved) a long time; dark vinaceous brown to gray brown, margin shading off to "pale olive-buff"; surface viscid to glutinous, at first with scattered delicate yellow fibrillose scales from veil, fibrillose-streaked beneath slime, usually with patches of veil tissue along margin

FLESH thick on disc and tapered abruptly away from it; "olive-buff" or more or less greenish watery gray

GILLS bluntly adnate but soon slightly depressed and with tooth, horizontal, subdistant, 24-28 reach stem, 2-3 tiers of subgills, broad, more or less 0.6cm; "pale olive-buff" or a little more green when young, near "buffy-brown" when old, or finally more rusty from the spores; edges fringed

STEM 3-6cm x 0.3-0.45cm, equal or narrowed below, hollow; "chartreuse-yellow" (greenish-yellow) at least at the apex, surface "sea-foam-yellow" above, slightly brighter below; lower two thirds covered by delicate zones or patches or more or less "clay-color" fibrils which are the darkened remains of the veil, apical region delicately fibrillose-farinose, base delicately fibrillose-strigose

VEIL clay-colored thready veil remnants on lower part of stem

ODOR none

TASTE mild or faintly bitterish

HABITAT scattered or solitary on conifer debris and humus

SPORE DEPOSIT presumably brownish

MICROSCOPIC spores (6)6.5-8.5(9) x 5-7(7.5) microns, broadly ovate to almost angular-ovate at times varying to broadly elliptic in face view, mostly obscurely to merely somewhat inequilateral or obscurely angular-elliptic in side view, smooth, germ pore present but not truly truncate, reddish tawny in KOH, paler in Melzer's; wall up to 0.5 microns thick; basidia 4-spored, 22-30 x (5)6-8 microns, clavate, colorless in KOH, yellowish in Melzer's; pleurocystidia (38)50-81 x (8)12-16 microns, fusoid-ventricose with acute to subacute apex, varying to fusoid, wall thin and colorless, content homogeneous or with scattered rods and granules; cheilocystidia similar to pleurocystidia but smaller, content often evenly yellowish; clamp connections present

NAME ORIGIN means 'beautiful'

SIMILAR var. *brevipes* which is distinguished by short relatively thick stem for its length, the color change to inky gray when the flesh is cut, and the generally more yellow coloration

SOURCES Smith(3)

FAMILY Strophariaceae of Order Agaricales