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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Bryce Kendrick

LATIN NAME(S) Rhodocollybia maculata (Fr.) Singer; Collybia maculata (A.& S.ex Fr.) Kummer

ENGLISH NAME(S) spotted Collybia

NOTES fieldmarks include white to buff, pale tan, or pinkish-tinged, dry or lubricous cap which is often darker or redder when old, small pinkish rusty reddish to yellowish-brown stains that occur on all parts, mild odor, and tendency to grow on rotten w

CAP 4-9(12)cm, (up to 15cm for var. scorzonerea), convex to obtuse, becoming flat, margin often wavy; pallid to pale tan, occasionally darker over disc, stained faintly ferruginous in spots naturally or where bruised slowly; moist or lubricous but not truly hygrophanous or viscid, bald, (Lennox), (2.5)4-12cm, convex with incurved margin at first, becoming broadly umbonate to flat or wavy; typically white to buff, pale tan, or pinkish tinged, often darker or redder when old, especially at center, and developing rusty or reddish spots and stains, (Arora)

FLESH very thick, generally deeper than gills at their point of attachment, rather brittle when moist, soft when drier, (Lennox), thick, white, (Arora)

GILLS abruptly sinuate, appearing almost free at maturity, crowded, blunt at stem and pointed toward margin, rather broad but not as broad as flesh is thick, ventricose (broader in middle), thin; white to pale pinkish-buff, staining ferruginous, especially along edges or where bruised, edges colored as faces; serrate to eroded, (Lennox), adnate to adnexed or notched to nearly free, crowded; white to pale pinkish-buff, often developing rusty or reddish stains (like cap) when old, (Arora)

STEM 4.2-10cm x 0.8-1.4cm, narrowing gradually to base then more or less rooting and narrowing abruptly in substrate, solid, rather firm but not tough, splitting easily longitudinally, sometimes flexuous (bent both ways) toward base; white, later sordid whitish, especially in lower half; base white-cottony-tomentose, upper part evenly white-pruinose, fibrillose or with a thin appressed tomentum, becoming bald and longitudinally striate when old, (Lennox), 4-15cm x 0.5-2(3)cm, often tapered below to form a more or less rooting base, solid (at least when young), firm; white to pale buff, usually developing rusty or reddish stains in lower part; smooth or fibrillose, (Arora)

VEIL none

ODOR none or fungoid (var. maculata), mild (var. fulva), sweet, fruity (var. nigra), faint, somewhat fragrant, (var. scorzonerea), faint and sweet (var. immutabilis), faint, pleasant and aromatic or fruity (var. occidentalis), (Lennox)

TASTE bitter (var. maculata, var. scorzonerea, var. nigra), mild to slightly farinaceous (var. occidentalis but Halling says var. occidentalis has bitter taste), mild (var. immutabilis, var. fulva), (Lennox)

EDIBILITY no because of bitter taste, (Arora)

HABITAT scattered to gregarious on much decayed wood in dense coniferous forests, (Lennox), solitary, scattered or in groups or tufts on decaying wood and lignin rich humus under conifers, (Arora)

SPORE DEPOSIT creamy to pale peach or pinkish buff, (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores 5-11 x 3.5-6.5 microns (see NOTES for dimensions of varieties), round or nearly round (var. maculata) or ovate to elliptic (other varieties above), smooth, a small percentage dextrinoid (but in other varieties just called dextrinoid), (Lennox); basidia (var. maculata) 4-spored, 33-37 x 7-8.5 microns; pleurocystidia none, cheilocystidia (this for var. maculata, those of var. immutabilis and var. occidentalis absent, and those of other varieties vary in shape), generally abundant but inconspicuous, rarely exceeding basidia, 17-36 x 3-5 microns, narrowly clavate, somewhat pointed, never really filamentous, thin-walled, not encrusted, (Lennox), 5-11 x 4-6 microns, round or nearly round in typical variety, elliptic in var. occidentalis, at least a few dextrinoid, (Arora)

NAME ORIGIN means "spotted"

SIMILAR oregonensis but paler cap and mild odor; like Tricholoma but stem longer and splits more easily

SOURCES Lennox, Arora (as Collybia), Phillips* (as Collybia), Lincoff(2)* (as Collybia), Lincoff(1)*(as Collybia), Schalkwijk-Barendsen*(as Collybia), Kibby*(as Collybia), Courtecuisse*(as Collybia), Bessette(2)*(as Collybia), Barron*, Breitenbach(3)*

FAMILY Marasmiaceae of Order Agaricales