

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) *Russula abietina* Peck N.Y. St. Mus. Rpt. 54: 180. 1901

NOTES Singer is doubtful of the autonomy of this species, suggesting in 1947 that the type collection represents a mixture of *R. blackfordae* Peck and *R. sphagnophila* Kauffman, and that his own earlier report of this species from the Pacific coast is not the same and may be *R. placita* Burl.; Burlingham (1915) had listed *abietina* Peck for Colorado and Washington, but the description appears to depend on Peck's and the present status of these reports is unclear, Thiers however gives *R. abietina* Peck for CA (1997), and Grund gives *R. abietina* Peck for WA, **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** FeSO₄ light salmon to flesh color with cap flesh, SV purplish gray with cap flesh, (Grund for WA material)

CAP 3-6cm, reddish purple, greenish purple, or olive green with brown, blackish or greenish center; margin striate, cuticle separable, (PNW keys), 2.5-6.3cm, convex becoming flat or slightly depressed; variable in color, purplish, greenish purple or olive-green with a brown or blackish center, or sometimes purplish with a greenish center; covered with viscid separable pellicle, tuberculose striate on margin, (Peck), 2.5-6.5cm, convex becoming flat to slightly depressed in center; vinous purple, greenish-purple, or olive-green, with brown, blackish, or greenish center; covered with a viscid, separable pellicle, bald, margin tuberculate-striate, (Burlingham)

FLESH white (PNW keys), fragile; white, (Peck), thin; white, (Burlingham)

GILLS subdistant; white to yellow, (PNW keys), rounded near stem and nearly free, subdistant, equal, ventricose; whitish becoming pale yellow, (Peck), narrowed and nearly free near stem, broad and rounded at the outer ends, ventricose, equal, not forking, subdistant; whitish, becoming pale yellow, (Burlingham)

STEM white (PNW keys), 2.5-6.3cm long, equal or widening downward, stuffed or hollow; white, (Peck), 2.5-6.5cm x 0.5-1.0cm, equal or widening downward, stuffed or hollow; white; bald, (Burlingham)

VEIL none

TASTE mild (PNW keys, Peck, Burlingham)

HABITAT balsam fir (PNW keys), *Abies balsamea* (Peck), under balsam fir (Burlingham)

SPORE DEPOSIT yellow, Crawshay E-F, (PNW keys), bright yellowish ochraceous (Peck), bright-yellowish-ochraceous, (Burlingham)

MICROSCOPIC spores 7.5-10 x 7-9 microns, (PNW keys), spores 0.003-0.004 of an inch (7.5-10 microns) long, nearly or quite as broad, nearly round, (Peck), 7.5-10 microns, nearly round, echinulate (spiny), (Burlingham)

NAME ORIGIN means 'pertaining to *Abies* [fir]'

SIMILAR *gracilis*, *fragilis*, and *versicolor* all have variegated cap color like *abietina* but all have peppery taste; like *turci* Bres. from which Peck separates it because of greenish and olive-green color in cap, absence of minute areolae in cap, and paler gills which lack cystidia (but according to Singer, *R. turci* suffers from different interpretations)

SOURCES Peck(1), Burlingham(2), PNW keys

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales