

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 aeruginea* Lindblad apud Fries Monogr. Hymen. Suec. 2: 198. 1863

ENGLISH NAME(S) green Russula, tacky green Russula, grass-green Russula

NOTES characterized by smooth green cap, pallid or brownish-spotted gills, and pale yellow spore deposit (Arora), included in PNW keys, one collection reported by Grund from WA, Thiers gives for CA, Gamiet reported from BC, Cripps reported from ID, MT, Shaffer examined collections from MI, **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** 10% FeSO₄ moderate yellowish pink on stem surface, SV colorless on stem surface, 2% phenol dark purplish gray to grayish red on stem surface, formalin colorless or pale pink on stem surface, (Shaffer), FeSO₄ reaction tinged salmon with cap flesh, SV reaction purplish with cap flesh, (Grund)

CAP 3-10cm, center often depressed; one color olive to grass green, more rarely olive brown or yellow green; viscid, drying shining smooth, margin striate, cuticle (cap skin) peeling, (PNW keys), 5-8.5cm, when young cushion-shaped with depressed disc, l

FLESH firm; white, (PNW keys), 0.5-0.7cm thick in disc, firm-brittle at first, becoming soft brittle; sometimes tinged cap color close to surface, otherwise white, unchanging when cut, (Shaffer), brittle, white, (Arora), tends (at least in Europe) to turn gray on exposure to air, (Lincoff(1))

GILLS crowded, forking at stem; white, yellowing when old, (PNW keys), adnexed, adnate, or subdecurrent, close, 0.5-0.8cm broad, equal, or unequal with subgills rare and usually approaching stem closely, rounded near margin, often forked at or near stem; yellowish white, at times spotted-stained moderate yellowish brown, interveined, entire, (Shaffer), adnate to adnexed or free, close, brittle; white becoming pale yellowish, often with brownish stains, (Arora)



Ben Woo



Michael Beug



John Dennis

STEM white, sometimes with reddish spots at base, (PNW keys), 4-6cm x 0.8-1.9cm, equal or widening or narrowing downwards, stuffed becoming hollow; yellowish white, spotted-stained moderate yellow, moderate yellowish brown, or dark olive brown basally, but becoming only slightly dingy when bruised; dry, dull, felted-puberulent at top, otherwise bald, longitudinally rugulose, (Shaffer), 4-8cm x 1-2cm, equal or with tapered base; white or faintly yellow, base often with pale brown or reddish stains, (Arora)

VEIL none

ODOR nondescript (Shaffer), pleasant (Lincoff(1))

TASTE mild or slightly peppery when young (PNW keys), none (Shaffer), mild or slightly hot (Rayner), mild (Arora), slightly peppery then sweet (Lincoff(1))

EDIBILITY yes (Arora), slightly poisonous when raw (Lincoff(1))

HABITAT conifers or deciduous woods (PNW keys), solitary or gregarious on humus in coniferous-deciduous woods, (Shaffer), birches (Rayner for Britain), solitary, scattered or in groups in woods, (Arora), in groups in coniferous forests, more rarely beneath aspen and birch (Lincoff(1))

SPORE DEPOSIT deep cream, Crawshay D-E, (PNW keys), pale orange yellow (Shaffer), creamy to pale yellow or pale orange-yellow (Arora)

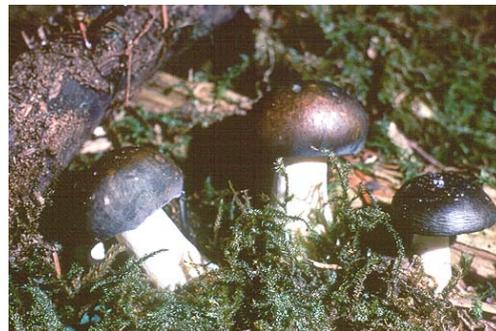
MICROSCOPIC spores 6-10 x 5.5-6.5 microns, ornamentation Patterson type B-2, (PNW keys), spores 6.2-8.3 x 5.1-6.8 microns, broadly elliptic, broadly ovate, broadly obovate, or nearly round, short-cylindric to bluntly conic warts and less common short ri

NAME ORIGIN means "copper-colored" or "copper-green rust", aerugo = the rust of copper (Latin)

SIMILAR like heterophylla and smithii which have white spore deposit; like parazurea which has a green cap that has a matte appearance, firm white stem, and white spores; like grisea with a slightly duller or grayer cap (green mixed with brown, gray, etc, or sometimes purple or lilac) and yellowish spores; like modesta but drying shiny and striate margin; like olivacea which grows under conifers and has red tones in cap; like virescens which averages larger, has strong tendency to areolate pattern on cap, and has spore deposit that is white or with a faint yellow tinge; like urens which has peppery taste

SOURCES Shaffer(2), Arora, Lincoff(2)*, Rayner, Hesler(7), Lincoff(1)*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Kibby*, Courtecuisse*, Barron*, PNW keys, Grund(2), Thiers(3), Gamiet(2) (accessed 23/7/01), Cripps(2)

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales



Joy Spurr