

## 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.

[Click for further information about MMPNW](#)

Many illustrations need confirmation. Do not use this information to determine edibility.

I have read and agreed to the [disclaimer](#) and [copyright information](#).

**LATIN NAME(S)** *Russula alutacea* Fr. group Arora

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** leathery looking *Russula*

**NOTES** group includes numerous medium to large yellow-spored mild tasting *Russulas*, including *alutacea* and *olivacea*, (Arora), Thiers gives *alutacea* (and *olivacea*) for CA, and says *alutacea* characterized by yellow to dark yellow spore deposit, mild taste, purple to lavender color of cap mixed with shades of red to rose to wine color with green to olive blotches, especially when older, the absence of pileocystidia, and the reticulate spores, **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** phenol stains stem and flesh purple-red, at least *alutacea* and *olivacea*, (Arora)

**CAP** 5-20cm, convex to flat or somewhat depressed; dark red to red, purplish, purple-brown, or purple-red, or buff to straw-colored at the center or throughout, or with olive shades or often a mixture of these colors; viscid when moist but soon dry, smooth, margin striate when old, (Arora), 4-12cm, flat-convex to convex when young, flat to shallowly and broadly depressed at maturity, margin decurved (downcurved) at first, flat at maturity; lavender to purplish red to reddish violet to wine red to rose color on margin, changing to yellow on disc, sometimes with olive to green areas, unchanging in color when bruised; viscid to subviscid when wet, cap skin separable 1/2 to 3/4 the distance to the disc, margin smooth when young, striate or tuberculate-striate with age, (Thiers), a bit wrinkled in center and like tan-colored leather when old (Schalkwijk-Barendsen for *alutacea*)

**FLESH** brittle, firm at first, fragile when old; white, (Arora), 0.4-0.6cm; white, unchanging when exposed, (Thiers)

**GILLS** adnate to adnexed or free, close, brittle; pale to dull ochre or straw-color, (Arora), adnexed to adnate, subdistant to distant, rarely close, not forking or rarely forking at the stem, often interveined; "white to pale yellow when young, darker yellow to brownish yellow with age", unchanging when exposed, (Thiers)

**STEM** 3-10cm x 1.5-4cm, more or less equal; white or sometimes tinged pinkish; dry, smooth, (Arora), 5-7cm x 1-3cm, slightly to distinctly clubshaped, stuffed to solid; white, often reddish at the base; dry, bald, (Thiers)

**VEIL** none

**ODOR** mild, (Arora, Thiers), fruity when young, dirty when older (Schalkwijk-Barendsen for *alutacea*, who gives nutty odor for *olivacea*)

**TASTE** mild, (Arora, Thiers)

**EDIBILITY** not recommended, (Arora)

**HABITAT** solitary to scattered or gregarious in mixed woods and under conifers, (Arora), solitary to gregarious in dense conifer-hardwood forests or in oak savannahs (Thiers for California)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** ochre-yellow, (Arora), yellow to dark yellow (Thiers)

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 8-11 x 6.5-9 microns, elliptic, amyloid warts, (Arora), spores 6.5-10 x 5-8.5 microns, nearly round to somewhat oval, ornamentation of scattered to isolated warts connected by heavy ridges or fine connective lines to form a partial or nearly complete reticulum, warts 0.2-0.5 microns high; hymenial cystidia common to scattered, projecting slightly to well beyond the spore-bearing surface, 55-75 x 7-12 microns, "fusoid to cylindrical to subclavate with a narrowed, tapering, elongated, sometimes strangulated terminal appendage, usually pale yellow in KOH"; cap cuticle 80-220 microns, epicutis differentiated as a loosely interwoven to tangled layer of hyphae with free hyphal tips, pileocystidia and primordial hyphae absent, subcutis interwoven, well-differentiated, (Thiers)

**NAME ORIGIN** means "resembling thin leather" or "light tan", aluta = thin leather (Latin)

**SIMILAR** alutacea similar to olivacea which also has a purple-red phenol reaction, stem usually with rose to purple flushes at top, and non-reticulate spores

**SOURCES** Thiers(3), Arora, Schalkwijk-Barendsen\*, Courtecuisse\*

**FAMILY** Russulaceae of Order Russulales