

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 claroflava* Grove Midland Nat. 11: 265. 1888; *Russula flava* Romell

ENGLISH NAME(S) yellow Russula, yellow swamp Russula, graying yellow Russula

NOTES characterized by yellow cap and tendency to stain gray with age or injury, included in PNW keys, Bills & Miller examined collections from PQ, AK, NJ, PA, TN, VA, WV, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom (Scotland), Cripps reported from MT, **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** stem flesh reactions: FeSO₄ no reaction to pale grayish pink or pale pink, phenol maroon, formalin bright red or orange red, SV no reaction to dull violet, NH₄OH no reactions, gum guaiac bluish green

CAP 6-10cm, fleshy, rounded; chrome yellow to pale lemon yellow; viscid drying shining, margin even becoming grooved when old, peeling 1/2-2/3, (PNW keys), 3-10cm, nearly round, cushion-shaped or convex, with margin inrolled when young, soon broadly con

FLESH firm; white, becoming gray to black on bruising or when old, (PNW keys), firm when young, brittle when old, 0.2-0.6cm at midradius, very thin at margin; white, "cream-color" to pale gray, slowly discoloring gray when cut, in stem sometimes slowly staining pale pinkish orange but soon pale to dark gray where injured, (Bills), white, rather quickly becoming gray or even blackish with age, (Lange), white, slowly staining grayish when rubbed, (Arora), turns reddish then blackish when bruised or cut (Ammirati)



John Dennis



Boleslaw Kuznik

GILLS white, then yellow, eventually gray, (PNW keys), adnate or slightly notched, close to medium, with rare subgills, up to 0.9cm broad at midradius, rounded to subacute near margin, often forked near stem, interveined; white when young, soon pale yellow, often gray to dark gray when old, especially toward cap margin and gill edge; edge even, sometimes eroded when old, (Bills), almost white becoming pale custard-yellow, (Lange), adnate to adnexed or free, close; creamy becoming pale ochre, sometimes grayish-stained when old, (Arora)

STEM white then graying, (PNW keys), 2.5-7.5cm x 1-2.5cm at midpoint, equal or slightly flared at either top or base, spongy when young, remaining spongy or becoming hollow when old; white to pale gray, becoming dark gray or "cinereous" when old or when wounded; dry to moist, longitudinally wrinkled or rivulose, (Bills), equal, white, often with a flush or yellowish, (Lange), 3-8cm x 1-2cm, more or less equal; white to pale yellow; dry, smooth, aging or slowly bruising grayish, (Arora), 4-10cm x 1-2cm, soft but not fragile; white, turning gray with age or bruising (very slowly), (Phillips), Schalkwijk-Barendsen found specimen with 23cm long stem, but it had whitish spore print

VEIL none

ODOR none, (PNW keys), not distinctive (Bills), mild, (Arora), pleasant (Phillips), of northern bedstraw but specimen had whitish spore print (Schalkwijk-Barendsen)

TASTE mild or slightly peppery when young, (PNW keys), not distinctive (Bills), mild (Lange, Arora), mild to slightly peppery (Phillips)

EDIBILITY edible (Arora), good (Phillips)

HABITAT under birch, (PNW keys), single to gregarious on soil, humus or moss, in coniferous forests, (Bills), under *Betula* (birch), especially on somewhat boggy or heathy ground, (Lange), scattered or in small groups in woods, mainly northern or montane in distribution and partial to birch, aspen and various conifers, summer and fall, (Arora), in wet swampy places in mixed woods (Phillips), sphagnum and *Betula*, also damp broadleaf woods, (Courtecuisse)

SPORE DEPOSIT yellow, Crawshay E-F, (PNW keys), yellowish orange, IIIa-b, (Bills), very pale creamy ochre (Lange), pale ochre, Crawshay F, (Phillips)

MICROSCOPIC spores 8 x 6-6.5 microns, ornamentation Patterson type A-3, B-3, (PNW keys), spores 7.5-10 x 6-7.5 microns, obovate to broadly obovate, ornamentation amyloid, up to 1.2 microns high, consisting of isolated, conical to cylindrical verrucae (war

NAME ORIGIN means "bright yellow"

SIMILAR lutea which is rather fragile, more viscid, and does not stain gray; like *R. aurantiolutea* C.Kauffman which has dull yellow to honey-yellow viscid to subviscid cap often mixed with orange colors, flesh that does not stain gray, white stem with yellowish tints or flushes, and taste slowly but distinctly peppery, (Thiers gives full description)

SOURCES Bills, Hesler Type Studies III 1961, Lange, Arora, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*(but had whitish spore print), Kibby*, Courtecuisse*, Barron*, Ammirati, PNW keys, Thiers(3), Cripps(2)

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales