

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 decolorans* Fries group Arora

ENGLISH NAME(S) graying Russula

NOTES typified by reddish to orange cap, graying flesh, and mild taste; description from Arora except where otherwise noted

CAP 5-15cm, nearly round becoming convex to flat or slightly depressed; dull red to orange, red mixed with yellow, coppery-brown, or at times with cinnamon or tawny tones; smooth, viscid when moist, margin striate with age

FLESH thick, firm; white, becoming gray, ashy, or black when bruised or exposed (sometimes slowly), may turn reddish first according to Ammirati

GILLS typically adnate to adnexed, fairly close; creamy becoming pale ochre or yellowish, sometimes grayish-stained or blackish in old age

STEM 4-12cm x 1-3cm, equal or often thicker below, very firm when young (but often softer when old), white, staining and aging grayish

VEIL none

ODOR mild

TASTE mild

EDIBILITY said to be edible, but several look-alikes of unknown edibility

HABITAT solitary to widely scattered or gregarious on ground in mixed woods and under conifers, associated principally with pine

SPORE DEPOSIT yellowish to pale ochre

MICROSCOPIC spores 9-14 x 7-10(12) microns, elliptic with isolated amyloid warts

NAME ORIGIN means "changing colors" having to do with change when exposed to air

SIMILAR occidentalis in staining gray, but sometimes stains reddish first, grayish-brown, olive-brown, buff, brownish, or wine-colored cap

SOURCES Arora, Phillips*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Courtecuisse*, Barron*, Ammirati

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales



Ben Woo