

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 dissimulans* Shaffer Brittonia 14: 267. 1962

ENGLISH NAME(S) red and black Russula

NOTES characterized by whitish cap which becomes smoky brown then black, and has inseparable cap skin which is viscid when young but soon dry, felty or velvety, hard flesh which turns red then smoky brown to black, close to crowded gills, short white stem which becomes brown then black, mild odor, mild to slightly peppery taste, and white spore deposit; Shaffer examined collections from WA, OR, ID, CA, MI, NC, VT, **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** reactions on stem surface: formalin+, phenol+, FeSO₄+, SV-, (Shaffer)

CAP 6.5-18cm, depressed in center; whitish when young, soon smoky brown and eventually black; slightly viscid when young but soon dry, felty or velvety, cracked into areolae when old, not peeling, margin even, (PNW keys), 6.5-18cm, when young convex with depressed disc and inrolled margin, expanding to flat-convex with depressed disc, the margin becoming raised and arching when old and the cap then more or less funnel-shaped; chalky white when young, soon becoming brown, drab, fuscous, or black almost overall; slightly viscid when young, but soon dry, or dry from the beginning, matte, bald to minutely felted, with margin at times rugulose (finely wrinkled), often becoming areolately cracked, cap skin not separable or separable up to one fourth the distance to the center, margin not striate, (Shaffer)

FLESH hard; white, turning red when cut, then smoky brown to black, (PNW keys), thick, 1-2cm, hard-brittle; white, when cut changing slowly through vinaceous-cinnamon to brick red and then eventually through drab to fuscous or black, (Shaffer)



Ben Woo

GILLS close to crowded, regular subgills; light yellow, blackening when injured, (PNW keys), adnexed-adnate to decurrent, close to subdistant, subgills abundant, 1-3 between each pair of gills, narrow to moderately broad, 0.4-1.4cm, acute near cap margin, broadest near middle, thick, brittle, not forked or only rarely so, rarely poroid-anastomosing at the stem, prominently interveined; light yellow, becoming dingy when old, when bruised changing through the same general color series as the cap flesh; edges entire, (Shaffer)

STEM short, white becoming brown, then black, (PNW keys), 4-8cm x 2-4.5cm, at base 1.8-4cm, narrowing to the base which may be obliquely subbulbous, or flared slightly at top and subequal or widening to the base below, straight or curved, round or slightly flattened, solid or stuffed, sometimes hollow when old; when young white, when old drab to fuscous or black almost overall, when bruised changing through the same general color series as the cap flesh; bald, unpolished, even or uneven, (Shaffer)

VEIL none

ODOR none (PNW keys), slight or none (Shaffer)

TASTE mild to slightly peppery (PNW keys), mild or becoming slightly or burning peppery (Shaffer)

HABITAT conifers or mixed woods (PNW keys), solitary or gregarious in coniferous and mixed forests (Shaffer)

SPORE DEPOSIT white, Crawshay A, (PNW keys), white (Shaffer)

MICROSCOPIC spores 7.7-10.8 x 6.5-9 microns, ornamentation Patterson type B-2, C-2, (PNW keys), spores 7.7-10.8 x 6.5-9 microns, usually elliptic to broadly elliptic, occasionally nearly round or oboval, ornamentation 0.1-0.5(0.7) microns high, on a few

NAME ORIGIN means 'dissembling, concealing' (Latin)

SIMILAR nigricans which has thick widely spaced gills, smoother cap surface, and smaller spores, but Thiers notes that "there appears to be considerable intergradation"; like adusta and densifolia which have viscid cap which dries shiny, densifolia has a much thicker cap cuticle which is embedded in a well-developed gelatinous matrix

SOURCES Shaffer(5), Lincoff(2)*, Kibby*, PNW keys, Thiers(3)

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales