

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 laurocerasi* Melzer Cin. Cesko. Houby: 243. 1920

ENGLISH NAME(S) almond-scented *Russula*

NOTES member of *fragrantissima* group, which also includes *fragrantissima* and *foetens*; features include viscid yellow-ochre cap with grooved margin, cap flesh that does not change when cut but becomes yellowish brown around larval channels, brittle white

CAP 3.5-13cm, when young deeply pulvinate (cushion-shaped) with an incurved margin, expanding through convex to flat with a depressed disc, when old concave or shallowly funnel-shaped; when young variously colored with moderate yellowish brown, dark gray

FLESH 0.15-0.9cm thick at mid-radius, firm-brittle to soft-brittle; at times tinged brown just beneath the cap cuticle at disc, otherwise white to pale yellow, stained moderate brown or moderate to strong yellowish brown around larval channels, but unchanging when cut, but cortex of stem becoming pale yellow when cut, (Shaffer), brittle; white, (Phillips)

GILLS adnexed to adnate, close to subdistant, equal to unequal with subgills rare to fairly common and of various lengths, 0.3-1.0cm broad, subacute to rounded near margin, sometimes ventricose (broader in middle), fragile-brittle, interveined, often forked at or near stem; yellowish white to pale orange yellow sometimes tinged gray, often spotted-stained light brown, moderate to strong yellowish brown, or dark grayish yellowish brown, but unchanging when bruised or only very slowly becoming light brown to moderate yellowish brown on the edges, (Shaffer), adnate, well spaced, broad; yellowish white to pale orange, (Phillips)



Joy Spurr



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STEM 2.5-11cm x 0.9-3.0cm, sometimes flared at top, elsewhere equal or narrowing or widening to base, stuffed becoming hollow; yellowish white to pale orange yellow, often discolored basally or rarely overall with pale grayish yellow, moderate brown or light grayish reddish brown, moderate to strong yellowish brown, or dark grayish yellowish brown, not staining appreciably when bruised or only slowly becoming dark grayish yellow to moderate yellowish brown; dry, dull, usually puberulent to minutely furfuraceous at top, elsewhere bald, scarcely longitudinally rugulose (wrinkled), (Shaffer), 2.5-10cm x 1.5-2.5cm, slightly tapered at base, rigid but easily breaking; dirty yellowish white to pale orange, stained brownish; dry, dull, (Phillips)

VEIL none

ODOR fragrant, benzaldehyde-like with a slight fetid component, (Shaffer), more or less marked of bitter almonds or marzipan, (Phillips), maraschino cherries, nitrobenzene with a fruity component, (Grund in a description he says is from R. Singer Sydowia 10: 162. 1957), a maraschino odor occurs in specimens of fragrantissima group (Arora)

TASTE slightly to strongly nauseating-peppery (Shaffer), unpleasant, rather peppery, (Phillips)

EDIBILITY no (Phillips)

HABITAT solitary, scattered, or gregarious on humus in deciduous and mixed woods, (Shaffer), in mixed deciduous woods (Phillips)

SPORE DEPOSIT Crawshay B-C, (PNW keys), pale egg-yellow, Crawshay C-D, (Phillips), pale orange yellow, Romagnesi Ila-c, (Shaffer)

MICROSCOPIC spores 8-10 x 7-9 microns, ornamentation Patterson type E-3, (PNW keys), spores (6.8)7.7-10.7 x (6.8)7.5-9.0 microns, broadly elliptic, broadly obovate, nearly round or round, blunt cylindrical to conic spines and ridges up to 1.0-2.6 microns

NAME ORIGIN means "with the odor of bitter almonds"

SIMILAR fragrantissima which is usually much more fetid-smelling, also darker and larger, and has different spore ornamentation, (Phillips), compared to fragrantissima, laurocerasi is smaller, cleaner as it matures, yellower, more slender (in general, st

SOURCES Shaffer(4), Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Ammirati*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Courtecuisse*, Bessette(2)*, Barron*, PNW keys, Grund(2), Thiers(3)

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales