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 lutea (Hudson:Fries) S.F.Gray

NOTES features include yellow viscid cap, white stem that does not stain gray, mild taste, and yellow-orange to ochre spore deposit; Pilat considers R. lutea Hudson ex Fries to be included in chamaeleontina, and Romagnesi considers it a form of chamaeleontina, but some authors (including Moser) report R. lutea (Hudson:Fr.) S.F.Gray separately, and Hansen et al give R. vitellina sensu Romagnesi as a synonym of R. lutea(Huds.:Fr.) S.F.Gray, suggesting that both sets of authors may be describing two different species; the PNW keys description is given for R. lutea (Huds.) Fr., whereas the Phillips and Bessette descriptions are for R. lutea (Huds.:Fr.) S.F.Gray; R. lutea reported at least from BC in Lowe, and is included in PNW keys

CAP 2-7cm, entirely yellow but also sometimes apricot, peach, flesh or coral in part or entirely, also even white; viscid when wet, peeling 3/4 or more, margin even, (PNW keys), 2-7cm, convex, later flattening or with a saucer-shaped depression; often entirely golden or egg-yolk yellow, but sometimes apricot, peach, flesh colored or coral in part or entirely; three quarters to almost totally peeling, (Phillips(2)), 2.5-7cm, convex becoming broadly convex to nearly flat with depressed center; bright yellow to yellow-orange or apricot; viscid becoming dry, smooth, margin striate when old, (Bessette)

FLESH soft, fragile; white, (PNW keys), white (Phillips(2)), white (Bessette)

GILLS orange, strongly interveined, (PNW keys), strongly interlined; deep saffron, (Phillips(2)), attached to nearly free, subdistant, broad; whitish becoming yellow to deep ochre, (Bessette)

STEM fragile, white, (PNW keys), 2-6cm x 0.5-1.5cm. cylindrical or clubshaped, soft, fragile; white, (Phillips(2)), 3-5cm x 0.5-2.0cm, equal; white; dry, smooth, (Bessette)

VEIL none

Michael Beug

Ben Woo

ODOR nil to fruity (PNW keys), nil when young, later fruity and suggesting apricots, (Phillips(2)), not distinctive, or sweet, especially when old, (Bessette)

TASTE mild (PNW keys), mild (Phillips(2)), not distinctive (Bessette)

EDIBILITY edible (Phillips(2))

HABITAT under hardwoods (PNW keys, Phillips(2)), solitary, scattered or in groups under hardwoods, (Bessette)

SPORE DEPOSIT strongly yellow-orange, Crawshay G-H, (PNW keys), ochre, Crawshay H, (Phillips(2)), yellow to deep ochre (Bessette)

MICROSCOPIC spores 7.5-9 x 6-8 microns, ornamentation Patterson type A-2, A-3, (PNW keys), spores 7.5-9 x 6-8 microns, oval-elliptic with warts up to 1 micron high, mostly isolated, very occasionally joined by a line, (Phillips(2)), spores 7-9 x 6-8 microns, elliptic, with warts, amyloid, (Bessette)

NAME ORIGIN means 'yellow'

SIMILAR like claroflava which has a stem that stains slowly grayish to blackish; like R. aurantiolutea Kauffman which has dull yellow to honey-yellow viscid to subviscid cap often mixed with orange colors, white stem with yellowish tints or flushes, and taste slowly but distinctly peppery,(Thiers gives full description for CA)

SOURCES Bessette(2)*, Arora, Kibby*, Phillips(2)*, Lowe, Thiers(3)

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales

J E Underhill