

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.

[Click for further information about MMPNW](#)

Many illustrations need confirmation. Do not use this information to determine edibility.

I have read and agreed to the [disclaimer](#) and [copyright information](#).

LATIN NAME(S) *Russula mariae* Peck N.Y. St. Mus. Rpt. 24: 74. 1872

ENGLISH NAME(S) powdered Russula, purple bloom Russula

NOTES distinguished by dry, velvety cap usually with a bloom, the cap colors reddish to purple, mild taste and creamy spore print; some divide into 2 species, *mariae* with red cap and *alachuana* with lilac-purple cap; not to be confused with *Russula mairei*; Arora reported it from California, reported from British Columbia (Hardy 1946 in *The Victoria Naturalist*), but this report needs confirmation, and specimens occurring in California and Washington (Singer 1957) are not this species according to Bills, who examined collections from PQ, AL, FL, MA, MI, MS, NC, NJ, NY (type), PA, RI, TN, TX, VA, VT, **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** reactions on stem surface: FeSO₄ no reaction or faintly gray to pink, NH₄O₄ no reaction, SV no reaction, gum guaiac slowly blue green, phenol maroon, alpha-naphthol no reaction, aniline on gills yellow in 10 minutes (Bills)

CAP nearly hemispheric becoming broadly convex, flat or centrally depressed; dry, pruinose or minutely pulverulent (powdered); dark crimson or purplish, sometimes darker in center than on margin; rarely striate when old, (Peck), 1.5-7(10)cm, convex with

FLESH white, pinkish under cuticle, (Peck), tapering toward margin, thin, up to 0.5cm at mid-radius, firm or brittle; white, unchanging when cut, often staining yellow around larval channels, (Bills), thin, brittle; white, (Arora)

GILLS adnate, rather close, a few forked at base; white becoming yellowish when old, (Peck), adnate to subdecurrent, close to subdistant, with rare subgills, up to 0.5cm broad at midradius, interveined, often forked at various levels; white when young, soon pale yellow, "cartridge buff", "apricot buff", to "ochraceous-buff" when old, edges occasionally pink to lilac; edges even to fimbriate (fringed), (Bills), typically adnate to adnexed, close; white becoming creamy or pale yellowish, (Arora)

STEM equal, solid or slightly spongy within; colored like or a little paler than the cap, usually white at each end, rarely entirely white, (Peck), 1-5.6cm x 0.5-2cm at midpoint, tapered toward base or equal, often curved, spongy when young, sometimes hollow when old; white to pale yellow, partly or entirely pink, grayish pink, or purple; dry, dull, partly or entirely scurfy to minutely pruinose or granular, sometimes with minute longitudinal fibrils, (Bills), 2.5-7.5cm x 1-2.5cm, equal or tapering downward, firm, rigid; white to tinged reddish to purple, (Arora)

VEIL none

ODOR mild, oily, of *Juniperus* wood or of *Lactarius volemus* (Fr.) Fr., (Bills)

TASTE mild or slightly and tardily acrid (Peck), mild to slightly acrid or oily (Bills), mild or slightly peppery, (Arora)

EDIBILITY edible but not choice (Arora)

HABITAT in woods and open places (Peck), single to gregarious on soil or humus in deciduous forests or mixed deciduous-coniferous forests, (Bills), solitary or in groups on ground in woods, found under oak and Douglas fir, (Arora)

SPORE DEPOSIT pale yellow (Romagnesi II b-c), (Bills), creamy-yellow (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores round 0.0003 of an inch, (Peck), spores 6.5-8.5(9.5) x 5.5-7.5(8) microns, round, nearly round to broadly obovate, ornamentation amyloid up to 1.2 microns high consisting of long, irregular crests and ridges, flattened spines and a few

NAME ORIGIN presumably after a Mary, as Peck calls it "Mary Russula"

SOURCES Peck(1), Bills, Hesler(5), Arora, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Lincoff(1)*, Kibby*, Barron*

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales