

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 occidentalis* Singer Sydowia 11: 155. 1957; *Russula artesiana* Bon

ENGLISH NAME(S) western *Russula*

NOTES features include viscid cap of variable color but typically purplish with greenish yellow center, flesh that turns gray or black, often with an intervening reddish phase, when cut or bruised, subcrowded pale yellow gills which often darken at edges

CAP 6-13cm, usually purplish with yellow-green center, but also with extremely variable colors, sometimes completely purplish, or olive-green with brownish lavender margin, or yellowish-brown shading to rosy purple margin, sometimes with bluish green sha

FLESH fairly firm; white, turning slowly reddish when cut, eventually grayish to gray black, (PNW keys), rather firm at first, but fragile when old; white unchanging in young material if not quite fresh, otherwise usually changing when bruised, scratched, or cut, at first to reddish, or directly (and then more slowly) to cinereous or gray, the reddening more localized in the stem, (Singer), firm; white, turning slowly reddish when cut, then gray to black, (Phillips), soft; white bruising reddish then gray to black, (Ammirati)

GILLS subcrowded; pale yellow, blackening at margin when old, (PNW keys), narrowed to the stem, crowded to subdistant, equal, anastomosing, occasionally forked, especially in inner third, narrow, up to 0.6cm broad, to broad, 1.0-1.5cm broad, broadest in marginal third, rather thick; white, then pale cream, dirty cream when old, the edges either unchanging or becoming sordid brownish when bruised or graying, (Singer), subcrowded; pale yellow, blackening at margin with age, (Phillips); touching the stem, close together or slightly spaced when old; pale yellow, edges often blackening when old, (Ammirati)



Ben Woo



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Joy Spurr

STEM white, often ashy when old, bruising first reddish then gray, (PNW keys), 5-10cm x 1.5-3.0cm, equal or near so, sometimes narrowing and curved at the base, rarely swollen-ventricose; spongy-firm but becoming hollow when old; white, the base at times with sordid yellowish blotches, usually becoming slowly cinereous or sordid, usually strictly unpolished, sometimes initially exuding watery drops, then slightly subpruinose to subvelutinous but becoming bald, sometimes longitudinally short-rugose at top, otherwise smooth to subrugulose, (Singer), 5-8cm x 1.5-2.5cm, firm; white, often grayish with age, bruising reddish then brown, (Phillips), up to 5cm long, soft and spongy within; white bruising reddish then dark gray to black, (Ammirati)

VEIL none

ODOR none to faintly fruity (PNW keys), weak (Singer), none (Phillips)

TASTE mild (PNW keys, Singer, Phillips)

EDIBILITY yes (Phillips)

HABITAT under Douglas fir, western hemlock, (PNW keys), on the ground, on needles, under Larix, Pinus, and Tsuga in mixed woods, (Singer), under fir and hemlock (Phillips)

SPORE DEPOSIT cream, Crawshay B, (PNW keys), spore print varying from intensity of D and tone quality of between C and E to between E and F (nearer to E), (Singer), cream, Crawshay D, (Phillips)

MICROSCOPIC spores 8-10 x 7.5-9 microns, Patterson type A-3, B-3, (PNW keys), 9-14 x 8.5-12 microns, ornamentation (1)1.5(2) microns high, of type VI, or in some collections, up to half of the spores of type IV, yet the general impression always that of isolated echination; basidia 4-spored, 50-55 x 14.2 microns; pleuropseudocystidia and cheilopseudocystidia 80 x 10-10.8 microns, with banded contents, more often acute than obtuse; epicutis of cap formed by hyphae which are equal, smooth, "empty", clampless, 1-3.5 microns thick, filamentous, and making up a trichodermium which becomes depressed in an early stage; hyphae of hypodermium similar but more repent and pigmented, (Singer), 8-10 x 7.5-9 microns, nearly round to elliptic, large protuberances, some connected by lines, (Phillips)

NAME ORIGIN means 'western'

SIMILAR other species that turn reddish then blackish include *R. decolorans* (coppery orange-red cap), *claroflava* (bright yellow cap), *nigricans*, *adusta*, *dissimulans*, and *densifolia*

SOURCES Singer(8), Phillips*, Ammirati*, Courtecuisse(as artesiana)*, PNW keys, Thiers(3), Gamiet(2) (accessed 23/7/01)

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales



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