

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 olivacea* (Schaeff.) Fr. Epicr. Myc. 1938

ENGLISH NAME(S) rainbow Russula, tan-colored Russula

NOTES characterized by compact large growth, dry cap which is wine-colored, purple-violet, olivaceous or ochraceous, either one-colored or multicolored, flabby cap skin which is difficult to separate and at the margin often circumferentially wrinkled or cracked, stem flushed reddish in upper part, and egg-yellow spore deposit, note also violet reaction to phenol and spores ornamented almost exclusively of isolated spines; included in PNW keys, found at least WA (Ben Woo, pers. comm., Jumpponen), Schalkwijk-Barendsen reports for BC, Thiers gives for CA, **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** stem surface staining cherry or blackberry red with phenol in 10-15 minutes, stem surface turning green with ferrous sulphate, (Phillips), phenol gives blackish purple to dark wine-red reaction (Thiers)

CAP 10-20cm, olive green or wine purple, usually olivaceous when young or where protected from light; velvety surface finely furrowed or cracked in a distinctive circumferential pattern near the rim, cap skin separable at the margin only, margin not striate, (PNW keys), 10-20cm, subspherical, then convex and moderately depressed; wine-colored, olivaceous, purple-violet or ochraceous, either one-colored or multi-colored; dry, non-shining, bald when young, then velvety and along the margin finely undulate-furrowed, a little separable at the margin, flaccid, (Pilat), 6-16cm, convex then soon flattened with depressed center; mixture of purplish red to livid purple (dark blue-gray purple) or olive to brown; dry, slightly roughened, often concentrically cracking, (Phillips), to 35cm (Arora)

FLESH dingy tan, not changing, (PNW keys), firm; white only when young, soon with a slight dirty lemon to alutaceous-greenish tinge, not changing its color when exposed to air, (Pilat), firm; white, (Phillips)



Ben Woo



Michael Beug

GILLS crowded, flexible; deep yellow, (PNW keys), adnexed, then remote, moderately rounded, numerous; antimony yellow with a lemon tinge at margin, finally ochraceous or alutaceous-orange, on the edge here and there with a purplish tinge, (Pilat), distant, broad, interveined; pale yellow, margins usually colored like cap at edge (marginate), (Phillips)

STEM stout; yellow tan with purplish tinge, rusty at base, (PNW keys), 6-10cm x 2.5-3.5cm, slightly spindle-shaped, firm, then spongy; partly or entirely with a purplish tinge, often becoming yellowish or rusty below; velvety, (Pilat), 5-10cm x 1.5-4cm, equal, white flushed rose entirely or mostly near top, (Phillips)

VEIL none

ODOR pleasant, faintly fruity, (PNW keys), weak, of fruit, (Pilat), pleasant (Phillips)

TASTE mild, nutty, (PNW keys), mild, pleasant, of hazelnut, (Pilat), mild, nutty, (Phillips)

EDIBILITY yes, good, (Phillips), numerous reports indicate that this species is at least mildly toxic, (Thiers)

HABITAT under conifers (PNW keys), in deciduous and coniferous woods, (Pilat for Europe), under beech (Phillips)

SPORE DEPOSIT egg yellow, Crawshay G-H, (PNW keys), egg-yellow (Pilat), deep yellow-orange

MICROSCOPIC spores 8-13 x 8-12 microns, ornamentation Patterson type A-3, (PNW keys), spores 8-13 x 8-13 microns, with isolated spines, (Pilat), spores (7.7)8-11.25(12) x (6.7)7-8.5-9.25(10) microns, obovate, spines 1.25-1.5 x 0.75-0.9 microns; cystidia 72-100 x 8.5-13(16) microns, (Romagnesi), spores 8-11 x 7-9 microns, warts up to 1.5 microns high, isolated with few connecting ridges, (Phillips)

NAME ORIGIN means 'olive-colored'

SOURCES Pilat, Phillips*, Lincoff(1)*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Kibby*, Courtecuisse*, Barron*, Arora, PNW keys, Thiers(3), Jumpponen(1)

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales