

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 sororia* (Fr.) Romell group Arora

ENGLISH NAME(S) comb *Russula*

NOTES group typified by moderate size, brown to grayish-brown to dingy straw-colored cap, tuberculate-striate margin when old, peppery tasting gills, and unpleasant odor; sororia group includes sororia (according to PNW keys 1989 not yet reported from t

CAP 4-12cm, convex becoming flat or shallowly depressed in center; dark yellowish- to hazel-brown in center, (rarely whitish), paler on margin or when old; viscid when wet, bald, cap skin not readily peeling, margin tuberculate-striate

FLESH brittle, firm; white, not bruising

GILLS adnate to adnexed or free, close; white, sometimes with brown or rusty stains when old

STEM 3-8cm x 1-2.5cm, equal or narrowing downwards, often with 3 cavities within; whitish, often rusty-stained near base

VEIL none

ODOR unpleasant (rancid or spermatic)

TASTE mild or slightly peppery

EDIBILITY might be poisonous

HABITAT scattered to densely gregarious in woods or at their edges, on lawns under trees, etc.

SPORE DEPOSIT creamy to pale yellow

MICROSCOPIC spores 6-9 x 5-7 microns, broadly elliptic with amyloid warts

NAME ORIGIN 'pectinata' means 'comblike'

SIMILAR like fragrantissima group but sororia group are smaller, grayer, and different in odor; like consobrina which has even margin

SOURCES Arora*, Ammirati (as pectinata)*, Courtecuisse(as pectinata)*, PNW keys (as pectinata), Rinaldi*, Singer(8), Shaffer(4), Thiers(3)

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales