

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 veternosa* Fr. Epicr. Myc. 357. 1838

NOTES features include viscid cap which is pink to red (old-blood-red, peach-red, coral, rose), often with buff or ochre or yellow areas, cap skin which peels half to three quarters, ochre or yellowish gills, white stem, peppery taste, yellow buff to orange ochre spore deposit, and spores with large isolated warts; included in PNW keys, Grund found in WA, Kauffman reports it for OR, Burlingham gives for CA, MI, NY, VT, Europe, CHEMICAL REACTIONS strong reaction to SV (Rayner), SV with cap flesh purple, FeSO₄ with cap flesh pinkish, flesh color, (Grund)

CAP 3-10cm, rose pink or coral margin with yellow center, sometimes faded apricot or cream; unpolished when dry, margin even, peeling halfway, (PNW keys), 5-8cm, broadly convex, then flat to depressed; old-blood-red, peach-red, rosy, or incarnate, soon

FLESH white, (PNW keys, Burlingham), 0.5-1.5cm thick at disc; white, tinged yellowish to reddish under cap surface, unchanging when exposed, in stem white, usually unchanging when exposed, (Thiers)

GILLS thin, forking; yellow, (PNW keys), adnate, narrow, broader near margin, subgills present; white, then straw-colored, (Burlingham), adnate to adnexed, close to subdistant, ventricose, occasionally forking, not interveined or anastomosing; whitish to pale yellowish becoming dark yellow, unchanging when bruised, (Thiers), forking, thin, interveined; interveined, (Rayner)

STEM soft; white, (PNW keys), 5cm long, up to 2cm thick, equal, spongy then hollow, fragile; white; smooth, (Burlingham), (3)5-8cm x 1-2cm, equal to widening downward, solid becoming stuffed when old; white, sometimes with pale pink flushes, often changing to buff to dull yellow when bruised; dry, bald, (Thiers), 2-7cm x 1-2cm, soft, (Rayner)

VEIL none

ODOR honey or gingerbread, but Pacific Northwest specimens under conifers generally without distinctive odor, (PNW keys), usually of honey, sometimes weakly so, (Thiers), suggestive of honey or gingerbread, (Rayner for Britain)

TASTE peppery (PNW keys, Burlingham), peppery, (Thiers), slightly to moderately hot (Rayner)

HABITAT under beeches, in Pacific Northwest found under conifers (PNW keys), oak, beech and maple woods, (Burlingham)

SPORE DEPOSIT yellow buff, orange ochre, Crawshay G-H, (PNW keys), yellowish-buff (Burlingham), G-H (Rayner), yellow to dark yellow, (Thiers)

MICROSCOPIC spores 7-9.5 x 6-8 microns, Patterson ornamentation type A-3, (PNW keys), 8-9 microns, subglobose (nearly round), echinulate (spiny), 7-9 x 6-8 microns, spines up to 1.5 microns, isolated, connections nil or practically nil, (Rayner), 7-9.5

NAME ORIGIN means 'dull, drowsy, lethargic'

SOURCES Burlingham(2), Thiers(3), Rayner, Hesler Type Studies III 1961, Romagnesi, PNW keys, Grund(2), Kauffman(5)

FAMILY Russulaceae of Order Russulales