

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) *Stropharia ambigua* (Peck) Zeller

ENGLISH NAME(S) questionable *Stropharia*

NOTES features include slimy smooth yellow cap, white veil remnants hanging from cap margin, gray to purplish-black gills, and off-white stem which has a fleeting ring and white scales on its lower part; common in the Pacific Northwest, also CA and elsewhere

CAP 3-15cm, obtuse to convex, becoming flat or even uplifted when old; yellow to yellowish-brown to yellowish-buff, tawny, or sometimes nearly white; viscid or slimy when moist, smooth, margin hung with cottony white veil remnants

FLESH thick, soft; white

GILLS typically adnate but sometimes seceding, close; pale gray, gradually darkening to purplish-gray or purplish-black

STEM 6-18cm x 0.5-2cm, more or less equal, often long, stuffed or hollow, silky and white above the veil, clothed with dry soft delicate cottony white scales below (but these sometimes wearing off), often yellowish toward base when old, base often with white mycelial threads attached

VEIL soft, white, cottony, leaving shreds or strands on cap margin and sometimes a superior ring or ragged zone on stem

ODOR not distinctive

TASTE not distinctive

EDIBILITY unknown

HABITAT solitary to scattered or in groups in rich humus, usually under conifers

SPORE DEPOSIT dark purplish to nearly black

MICROSCOPIC spores 11-14 x 6-7.5 microns, elliptic, smooth, chrysocystidia present on gills

NAME ORIGIN means 'changeable, ambiguous, uncertain' (Latin)

SOURCES Arora*, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Smith(15)

FAMILY Strophariaceae of Order Agaricales



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