

## 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)** *Tricholoma focale* (Fr.) Ricken Die Blatterpilze: 332. 1915; *Tricholoma zelleri* (Stuntz & Smith) Ovrebo & Tylutki; *Armillaria zelleri* Stuntz & Smith

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** Zeller's mushroom

**NOTES** distinguished by viscid orange to orange-brown cap splashed with olive or yellow, rusty spotted gills, stem that is pallid above the membranous ring and usually somewhat scaly or with orange or brown stains below, and strong farinaceous odor; some consider a variant called *robustum* as separate species, with dry silky dull (not varnished) cap, usually deeply cracked, stem often dark-streaked with fibrils instead of scaly zones, lacking viscid layer on surface of cap and stem; common in Pacific Northwest and reported specifically from BC (in Redhead(5)), and from WA by Jumpponen(1) and by Smith(15) and (as *Armillaria robusta* (Alb. & Schw.) Fr. sensu Lange) from WA, OR by Zeller

**CAP** 4-15cm, convex becoming flat or broadly umbonate; "bright orange to yellow-orange, or orange-brown, or sometimes splashed with olive-green"; viscid when moist, margin at first hung with veil remnants, (Arora), 5.0-13.5cm, convex when young, becoming broadly convex to flat-convex, occasionally broadly umbonate, margin inrolled at first, becoming uplifted and wavy when old; orange brown, with irregular streaks and patches of olive, yellow, and deep orange; viscid becoming dry, with innate radiating fibrils, (Shanks)

**FLESH** thick; white, slowly bruising orange-brown, (Arora), white (Shanks)

**GILLS** adnate or notched, close; white, developing rusty-orange-brown stains, (Arora), sinuate, close to crowded, thin; buff, discoloring caramel in spots, (Shanks)



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**STEM** 4-13cm x 1-3cm, usually tapered downward, solid; "pallid above the ring, usually somewhat scaly or with orange or brown stains below"; dry, (Arora), 4.5-11 cm x 1.5-3.0cm, equal, ventricose (wider in middle), or narrowed toward base; white above the ring but discoloring orange brown, below the ring colored more or less like cap: orange, orange brown or brown over a white background; above the ring silky fibrillose, pruinose, below the ring appressed-fibrillose with clumps of loosened fibrils giving a shaggy appearance, (Shanks)

**VEIL** "white, membranous, forming a flaring or ragged median to superior ring" on stem which frequently collapses when old, (Arora), ring appressed, cottony, persistent, whitish, (Shanks)

**ODOR** strongly rancid-farinaceous (Arora), mildly farinaceous, (Shanks), fruity, aromatic but variable, can be unpleasant, (Schalkwijk-Barendsen)

**TASTE** strongly rancid-farinaceous, (Arora), bitter to bitter-farinaceous, (Shanks), rather like fresh meal but with an added pungent, somewhat metallic component, (Ammirati), mild (Courtecuisse)

**EDIBILITY** unpalatable (Arora)

**HABITAT** scattered to gregarious on ground under conifers or hardwoods, (Arora), scattered to gregarious with conifers (Shanks)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** white (Arora)

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 4-5.5 x 3-4 microns, elliptic, smooth, inamyloid, (Arora), spores 4.8-5.8 x 2.9-3.8 microns, elliptic, smooth, inamyloid; basidia 4-spored, 19-31 x 4.8-5.8 microns, narrowly clavate; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia absent, but occasional cylindrical basidioles extending beyond the gill margin; clamp connections absent, (Shanks)

**NAME ORIGIN** "zelleri" after American mycologist Dr. S.M. Zeller of Corvallis Oregon

**SIMILAR** aurantium which lacks membranous veil, is usually smaller and less fleshy, and has a less appressed-fibrillose stem with belts of orange fibrils, similar to aurantio-olivaceum q.v.

**SOURCES** Shanks(2), Arora\*(as zelleri), Phillips\*(as Armillaria zelleri), Ammirati\*(as zelleri), Schalkwijk-Barendsen\*(as zelleri), Bessette(2)\*(as zelleri), Courtecuisse\*, Shanks(2), Barron\*, Jumpponen(1), Smith(15), Zeller(1)

**FAMILY** Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales



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