

## 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)** *Volvariella volvacea* (Fr.) Singer Lilloa 22: 401. 1951

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** paddy straw mushroom

**NOTES** features include velvety cap with dark brown or blackish brown bars on a whitish background, free white gills, white hairy stem, membranous volva that is brown or dark brownish gray on whitish background, growth in greenhouses, in gardens, on sawdust, or on other vegetable residue, and pinkish spore deposit; a commonly eaten mushroom in Asia, BC specimens in compost heaps at two locations are probably a result of research into whether it would grow in BC, Shaffer examined collections from ON, DC, FL, MA, NY, OH, MI, Bermuda, Monoson et al. examined collection from IL

**CAP** 5-10cm, ovoid when young, expanding to bellshaped or convex, at times somewhat umbonate or depressed on disc; fuliginous to grayish brown, blackish brown on disc; dry, virgate with dark fibrils, often radially rimose (cracked), with the margin not striate, (Shaffer), 4-10cm, ovoid then bell-shaped-conical, eventually flattened; first blackish, which persists in mature fungi at disc, then with dark brown or blackish brown bars on a whitish or silvery white background; velvety, (Lincoff)

**FLESH** 0.3-0.5cm thick on disc, tapering more or less evenly to cap margin, soft; white, tinged with cap color beneath cap skin or not, (Shaffer), soft; white; fibrous in stem, (Lincoff)

**GILLS** free, close, broad; white when young, becoming deep flesh-color; edges fimbriate (fringed), (Shaffer), free; white then pinkish (Lincoff)

**STEM** 4.5-14cm x 0.3-2.0cm, more or less equal in upper part or enlarging slightly to somewhat bulbous base, round, stuffed, becoming hollow; off-white to dull brown; innately fibrillose, (Shaffer), 5-12cm long and about 1cm wide, hollow when mature; white; hairy, (Lincoff), **VOLVA** large, with margin free and irregularly lobed, membranaceous, floccose, brownish, (Shaffer), membranous, brown or dark brownish gray externally (at least in part), whitish background, uniformly feltlike, presumably saclike, (Lincoff)

**VEIL** universal veil forming volva, presumably no veil

**ODOR** meaty-aromatic (Shaffer), very slightly earthy (Lincoff)

**TASTE** mild (Shaffer, Lincoff)

**EDIBILITY** good when young (Lincoff)

**HABITAT** solitary to gregarious on soil or compost, (Shaffer), in loam in greenhouses or gardens, on sawdust or other vegetable residue, spring to autumn, with heat all year, (Lincoff)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** pink (Lincoff)

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 6.9-10.4 x 4.6-7 microns, oval to ovoid, occasionally obovoid, (Shaffer); basidia 4-spored, 20-44 x 7-11 microns, clavate; pleurocystidia common to abundant, 35-113 x 8-36 microns, subcylindric, fusoid-ventricose, and then at times with the neck very short or elongate and enlarged at apex, occasionally dumbbell-shaped, lanceoloid, or clavate, rarely fusoid, cheilocystidia abundant, 23-107 x 8-29 microns, usually fusoid-ventricose and then at times with the neck elongate or enlarged at the apex, clavate with the apex acute or obtuse and rarely with a small knob, or lanceoloid; clamp connections absent, (Shaffer), spores 7-9 x 5-6 microns, elliptic, smooth, presumably thickened wall, presumably inamyloid; gill tissue presumably convergent, (Lincoff)

**NAME ORIGIN** means 'having a volva'

**SOURCES** Shaffer(3), Lincoff(1)\*, Monoson(1)

**FAMILY** Pluteaceae of Order Agaricales