

Cantharellus subalbidus Smith & Morse

ROD name *Cantharellus subalbidus*

Family Cantharellaceae **Morphological Habit** chanterelle

Description: **CAP** 5-10 (-14) cm broad, at first plane or with a decurved margin, soon the margin elevated to somewhat recurved and becoming irregularly lobed or wavy, in age broadly depressed to almost funnel shaped and quite irregular in shape, surface felty-fibrillose to subtomentose, smooth or in age areolate-scaly, typically dry and unpolished, white to off-white over all, becoming pale buff when water soaked and sordid yellow where handled. **GILLS** close and narrow, decurrent almost to base, variously forked or anastomosing and strongly veined, white to gray-white but becoming cream colored and staining yellow to orange when bruised, edges obtuse and even. **STEM** 2-4 (-5) cm long, 1-3 cm at base, flaring upward and indistinct from cap, solid, white and fibrous within, surface white and unpolished but staining yellow to orange when bruised, finally discoloring to sordid brown. **ODOR AND TASTE** not distinct. **PILEIPELLIS** of compactly interwoven cells. **BASIDIA** 62-80 x 8.5-10 µm, narrowly clavate, hyaline, 4 to 6 spored. **CYSTIDIA** absent. **CLAMP CONNECTIONS** absent. **SPORES** ellipsoid to broadly ellipsoid, 7-9 x 5-5.5 µm, smooth, hyaline, spore print white.



Distinguishing Features: Microscopic characteristics of *C. cibarius*, *C. formosus*, *C. subalbidus* differ little. Spores, basidia and tramal hyphae are all virtually identical. *Cantharellus subalbidus* can be distinguished in dried herbarium material by its pale cap surface and thick cap and stem context, but virtually no separating characters exist to reliably separate *C. formosus* from other possible taxa in the Pacific Northwest.

Distribution: Common and widely distributed in northwestern North America including northern Idaho. Known for many locations throughout the range of the Northwest Forest Plan.

Substrate and Habitat: Single or gregarious in coniferous forests.

Season: Autumn through winter.

Reference: Smith, A.H.; Morse, E.E. 1947. The genus *Cantharellus* in the Western United States. *Mycologia*. 39: 497-534.



Photo courtesy of Steve Trudell



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