

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) *Clitocybe odora* (Bull.ex Fr.) Kummer Der Fuhrer in die Pilzkunde

ENGLISH NAME(S) blue-green anise mushroom, anise-scented *Clitocybe*

NOTES identified by blue-green to dull greenish color and anise odor, other features include convex to somewhat depressed non-viscid cap, often with broad umbo, adnate to decurrent close gills, white to buff or cap colored stem, and pinkish cream or buff spore deposit; var. *pacifica*, the usual taxon in the Pacific Northwest, and the one described here from Bigelow, differs from var. *odora* in having dull green to dark green gills (instead of whitish to pale buff) and this color is retained when the cap fades with age and bright light; var. *odora* found at least AB, NS, ON, PQ, AK, CO, MA, ME, MI, NY, OH, TN, VT, WY, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, (Bigelow), var. *pacifica* found at least WA, OR, ID, probably occurs BC, CA, and close to the common form of *C. odora* in Europe, (Bigelow), reported from BC (Redhead)

CAP 2.5-10cm, convex to flat or somewhat depressed; "bluish-green to dingy greenish, gray or grayish-brown with a slight blue-green tinge, to nearly whitish in dry weather"; smooth, not viscid, (Arora), 2.5-11cm, convex expanding to flat, margin inrolled then horizontal and finally wavy, disc finally shallowly depressed, at times with broad umbo; shades of glaucous blue and glaucous green, finally whitish with some brownish tints, especially on disc; with slight canescent bloom for some time, at length appearing radiate fibrillose, not hygrophanous, margin not striate, (Bigelow), finely matted with silky hairs or sometimes with a hoary bloom, (Phillips)

FLESH whitish or tinged cap color, (Arora), thin except on disc; whitish but faintly with cap shades, (Bigelow)



Ben Woo



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GILLS adnate to decurrent, close; blue-green to greenish or dark green in one form (var. *pacifica*), whitish to buff or pinkish-buff in another (var. *odora*), (Arora), adnate to short decurrent, close to subdistant, broad, up to 0.8cm, occasionally forked, interveined and usually with faces of gills veined; colored as cap becoming darker with age (to a dark green), (Bigelow)

STEM 2-6(9)cm x 0.5-1.5(3)cm, equal or thicker at either end; white to buff or cap-colored; smooth, (Arora), 2-5cm x 0.8-3.0cm, widening downward, stuffed becoming hollow, flattened at times; colored as cap but fading when old; shiny, fibrillose striate, base white mycelioid, (Bigelow), sometimes curved, base spongy and covered with white down, (Phillips)

VEIL none

ODOR strongly fragrant anise-like, at least when fresh, (Arora), anise (Bigelow)

TASTE anise (Bigelow), strongly aniseed (Phillips)

EDIBILITY yes, best used as flavoring agent because of strong taste, (Arora)

HABITAT scattered or in groups in woods, (Arora), gregarious or cespitose (tufted) under conifers, (Bigelow)

SPORE DEPOSIT pinkish cream or buff (Arora), "pale pinkish buff" becoming darker and more ochraceous when old, (Bigelow)

MICROSCOPIC spores 6-8 x 3-5 microns, elliptic, smooth, (Arora), spores 6.5-8(9) x 4.5 microns, elliptic, smooth, inamyloid, usually cyanophilic; basidia 4-spored, 25-36 x 4.5-7.5 microns; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia presumably absent; clamp connections present, (Bigelow)

NAME ORIGIN *odora* means "perfumed"

SIMILAR *deceptiva* and *fragrans* in odor, but both smaller and neither blue-green, note however that Schalkwijk-Barendsen describes a white form of *odora* common in the north and in mixed boreal forest and aspen parkland

SOURCES Bigelow(5), Arora, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Lincoff(1)*, Ammirati*, Kibby*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Courtecuisse*, Bessette(2)*, Barron*, Redhead(5), Breitenbach(3)*

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales



Alvin Funk