

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.

[Click for further information about MMPNW](#)

Many illustrations need confirmation. Do not use this information to determine edibility.

I have read and agreed to the [disclaimer](#) and [copyright information](#).

LATIN NAME(S) *Cortinarius alboviolaceus* (Pers. ex Fr.) Fries

ENGLISH NAME(S) silvery-violet *Cortinarius*

NOTES subgenus *Sericeocybe*; characterized by overall silvery-violet to lilac-white color, shiny-silky dry cap surface, pale violet to grayish brown gills, whitish universal sheath on stem, and mild odor; reported from WA by O'Dell(1), Cripps from MT

CAP 2-9cm, (hemi-)spherical, margin inrolled, then normally broadly umbonate to flat-convex; silvery bluish white when young, later ochraceous yellow to grayish-white; slightly innately fibrillose, when young fibrillose from veil remnants, (Brandrud), 3-8cm, obtusely bell-shaped becoming convex to broadly umbonate to nearly flat; pale violet or bluish white soon becoming pale silvery-violet, lilac white, or even whitish; dry, silky-shining, (Arora)

FLESH whitish, pale lilac at top of stem, yellowish white towards base of stem and with age, (Brandrud), pallid to pale violet (Arora)

GILLS fairly crowded, pale grayish brown, with a faint bluish violet tinge when young, edge whitish, (Brandrud), adnate or adnexed or notched, fairly close; pale violet to purple-gray becoming cinnamon-brown, (Arora)

STEM 5-12cm x 0.5-1.0cm, usually clubshaped with base to 2cm wide; pale bluish white as cap (with age turning yellow); fibrillose, (Brandrud), 4-12cm x 0.5-1(1.5)cm at top, usually clubshaped or enlarged at base; violet or pale violet in upper part, with whitish silky fibrils overlying pale violet surface in lower part; dry, silky, (Arora)

VEIL whitish, leaving fibrillose remnants on young cap and thin girdles on stem (or sometimes stem peronate), (Brandrud), universal veil white, silky, usually forming thin soft, silky sheath lower stem; cortina white, evanescent or leaving hairs on stem, (Arora)

ODOR indistinct (Brandrud), mild (Arora)

TASTE not distinctive (Phillips)

EDIBILITY unknown (Arora), yes but not recommended (Phillips)



Ben Woo



Michael Beug



John Dennis

HABITAT scattered to gregarious or in small clumps in forest humus, associated mainly with hardwoods, (Arora), deciduous forests (Brandrud for Europe), often in large numbers under beech and oak (Phillips), under conifers and hardwoods, especially beech and oak, (Bessette)

SPORE DEPOSIT rusty-brown (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC 8.5-10 x 6-6.5 microns for European material, elliptic to almond-shaped, distinctly verrucose, pale gill edge with small cylindrical sterile cells, (Brandrud), spores 7-10 x 4-6 microns, elliptic, minutely rough, (Arora), no pleurocystidia, marginal cells 12-21 x 3-5 microns, cylindrical, (Breitenbach)

NAME ORIGIN means 'white-violaceous', albus = white (Latin), violaceus = violaceous (Latin)

SIMILAR like griseoviolaceus which has somewhat viscid stem but may be the same species; like anomalus which among other differences has nearly round spores; like camphoratus which has penetrating odor; like malachus which has cap finely scaly in dry condition; like traganus somewhat, but flesh never rusty-brown or tawny, and gills violet-edged when young; like *Lepista nuda* (blewit) when veil gone and spores not visible, but spore color different; like *Inocybe lilacina* somewhat but *lilacina* is smaller, more umbonate, with dull brown spores and spermatic odor

SOURCES Brandrud*, Arora*, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Lincoff(1)*, Courtecuisse*, Bessette(2)*, Barron*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, O'Dell(1), Breitenbach(5)*, Cripps(2)

FAMILY Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales