

## 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)** *Cortinarius casimiri* (Vel.) Huijsm.

**NOTES** subgenus *Telamonia*; characterized by a hygrophanous umbonate cap which is whitish-fibrillose on a dark red-brown to wine-brown background, stem that is entirely lilac-brown when young, and large spores; Breitenbach gives *Cortinarius* subspecies *Romagnesi* as a synonym, but Moser(1) gives *C. subspecies Kuehn.* separately; *C. casimiri* reported from OR (Lorelei Norvell, pers. comm.), also Europe (Breitenbach)

**CAP** 2-3(5)cm, acutely conic when young, later bellshaped to flat and usually more or less acutely umbonate, "marginal zone often wrinkled to somewhat undulating", margin even and acute; hygrophanous, dark red-brown to wine-brown when moist and young, gray-brown to ocher-brown sometimes with a pink tint when dry; dull, covered with fine veil fibrils

**FLESH** thin; gray-beige to dark purple-brown

**GILLS** broadly attached and subdecurrent (somewhat decurrent), 24-32 gills reach stem, 1-3 subgills between each pair of gills; broad; gray-reddish when young, later gray-brown to cinnamon-brown; edges slightly crenate (scalloped)

**STEM** 3-8cm x 0.25-0.55cm, cylindric, base sometimes slightly bulbous, stem "flexible, solid when young, hollow when old"; "densely covered over entire length by the whitish veil when young, later whitish circumcinct" (with circumferential belt) "to irregularly banded on a lilac-brown to red-brown background, often with a fibrillose-membranous annulus, apex lilac even in mature specimens, base reddening"

**VEIL** margin joined to stem by a dense whitish filamentous cortina when young, later often with a fibrillose-membranous annulus

**ODOR** weak, not distinctive

**TASTE** mild, pleasant

**HABITAT** usually gregarious "in hardwood and coniferous forests as well as under shrubs, primarily near hardwoods but also near *Picea*" (spruce)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** rust-brown

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 9.2-12.3 x 5-7.4 microns, elliptic, moderately verrucose, light yellow; basidia 4-spored, 26-40 x 8-10 microns, cylindric to clavate, with basal clamp; no cystidia or marginal cells; cap cuticle of periclinal hyphae 3.5-12 microns wide, colorless to yellow and mostly encrusted, septa with clamps

**SIMILAR** *C. flexipes* is similar but has a geranium (*Pelargonium*) odor

**SOURCES** Breitenbach(5)\*

**FAMILY** Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales of Basidiomycetes