

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 cyanites Fr.

NOTES subgenus Sericeocybe, Courtecuisse places in subgenus Cortinarius, Brandrud says "Its taxonomic position is somewhat disputed"; features include viscid grayish brown cap (blue to grayish blue when very young) which soon becomes dry, flesh which is blue to grayish blue when young, fading to white, but turning deep vinaceous red on exposure, deep blue to grayish blue young gills which become grayish brown, and blue to grayish blue stem; found at least WA, CA, (Castellano), Phillips says found in Pacific Northwest and Virginia and probably in other eastern states

CAP 7-15cm, broadly convex-umbonate to nearly flat or with a low umbo; "gray, or gray with brown tones where veil covers surface, sometimes with olive tones, edge often dull lilac, generally with brown blotches and streaks of appressed brown fibrils or fibrillose scales"; dry to subviscid, (Castellano), 4-10cm, (hemi-)spherical, then flat-convex, grayish blue when very young, soon more (metallic) grayish brown, frequently with an olivaceous tinge; initially viscid to glutinous, soon dry, coarsely innately fibrillose to fibrillose (Brandrud); 7-15cm, a mixture of violaceous purple and reddish brown colors; covered in brownish fibrils or scales, a touch slimy at first, then dry (Phillips)

FLESH blue to grayish blue when very young, soon fading to whitish or brownish white in cap and bulb, and turning to deep vinaceous red on exposure, at least when bruised (especially in bulb), (Brandrud), purple especially near exterior, turning red after 2 or 3 minutes when cut or bruised, (Phillips)

GILLS adnate to adnexed; "blue violet to gray with slight blue cast, becoming brown, dark gray, or olive-brown, with some vinaceous to red stains", (Castellano), rather crowded; deep blue to grayish blue when young, later (dark) grayish brown, (Brandrud), adnate; violet, keeping their color for a long time, (Phillips), presumably becoming rusty brown

STEM 7-15cm long, up to 2.3cm at top, up to 4.4cm at base, bulbous to clubshaped, (Castellano), 5-10cm x 1-2.5cm, distinctly bulbous at base (to 5cm); rather persistently blue to grayish blue, turning vinaceous red on bruising, basal mycelium bluish, (Brandrud), 9-15cm x 2-3.5cm, with a very large bulb before the stem extends and the cap expands, the stem eventually becoming swollen; pallid purplish; fibrillose, (Phillips)

VEIL universal veil "pale brown, forming a band on the bulb and sometimes brown patches over the inner veil, which are more pale", (Castellano), rather abundant, faintly viscid when young, rendering the stem grayish to olivaceous gray girdled (Brandrud)

ODOR not distinct to somewhat sweet, (Castellano), indistinct or sweetish (Brandrud), distinctive (Phillips)

TASTE mild or slightly bitter, (Castellano), somewhat bitter (Brandrud), slight or a touch bitter (Phillips)

HABITAT solitary to gregarious or in widely separated groups, on soil in coniferous forests, (Castellano), coniferous and deciduous woods (Phillips)

SPORE DEPOSIT rusty brown (Phillips)

MICROSCOPIC spores (8.5)8.9-11.3 x (4.8)5.4-7.0(7.4) microns, elliptic to more or less almond-shaped or broadly elliptic, distinctly verrucose, ornamentation dark brown; basidia 4-spored, (25)35-50 x 8-11(13) microns, colorless to yellow-brown; clamp connections present, (Castellano), spores 8.5-10.5(11) x 5.5-6.5 microns, elliptic to amygdaliform (almond-shaped), rather weakly verrucose, warts isolated and dense, (Brandrud), 8.8-11.5 x 5-6.5 microns, lemon-shaped, warty (Phillips), no pleurocystidia, marginal cells 28-50 x 5-10 microns, cylindrical to clavate, (Breitenbach)

NAME ORIGIN means 'dark blue'

SIMILAR *C. purpurascens* is similar; *C. varicolor* complex "give a yellow reaction with KOH and only slowly discolor red-brown if at all", (Castellano)

SOURCES Castellano(2)*, Brandrud*, Phillips*, Courtecuisse*, Breitenbach(5)*

FAMILY Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales