

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 flexipes* Fr.; *Cortinarius paleiferus* Svrcek; *Cortinarius paleaceus* var. *pinetorum* N.Arnold

NOTES Subgenus *Telamonia*; Hansen gives *flexipes* (Pers.:Fr.) Fr. sensu Lange as synonym of *C. paleaceus* Fr. (see separate listing), but differentiates *C. flexipes* (Pers.:Fr.) Fr. sensu Kuehner; Brandrud et al. give *C. paleaceus* Fr. sensu auct. as a misapplied name for this species; the description here from Brandrud et al. is for var. *flexipes*, var. *flabellus* differs in the normal lack of violet tinges, the less scaly less acute cap, and the slightly shorter spores, var. *inolens* is like *flabellus* but without any pelargonium odor, note that the PNW keys entry and Kauffman's (for NY state) specify mild odor; *flexipes* Fr. found in WA by Alexander Smith in 1941 and in CA by Smith in 1937, but it is not clear in which sense his records apply

CAP 1-4cm, conical, then flat-convex with an acute umbo; hygrophanous, dark brown to violaceous brown (when young often violet), when dry gray-yellow; dull, very distinctly white scaly, (Brandrud), 1-3cm, at first conic then conic-bellshaped; hygrophanous, the ground-color cinnamon-brown; densely covered with shining grayish-white subagglutinate scales up to the top of the acute umbo, the scales small, superficial and easily rubbed off, (Kauffman), 1-3cm, with prominent umbo; cinnamon brown more or less obscured by tiny pointed gray-white fibrillose scales, superficial and easily removed, but persisting on older caps, (PNW keys)

FLESH dark yellow-brown, darker in cap and in base of stem, often violet in top of stem, (Brandrud), at the first violaceous, soon pallid or brownish, (Kauffman), violet becoming brown, (PNW keys)

GILLS (moderately) crowded; beige-brown brownish violet, (Brandrud), adnate-emarginate, close to subdistant, broad; at first or when moist "walnut-brown" with a purplish tinge, soon "Sudan-brown"; the edge entire, at first whitish, (Kauffman), reddish chocolate brown (vinaceous brown), (PNW keys)

STEM 4-10cm x 0.3-0.7cm, equal, often curved toward base, tapering and rigid; brown, top usually violet, dark brown with a yellow-red tinge towards base; pale fibrillose, veil white abundant forming a ring-zone and rendering the stem below girdled-flocculose, mycelial felt sometimes violet, (Brandrud), 3.5-5cm x 0.2-0.4cm, at first straight then flexuous (bent both ways), stuffed then hollow; dark-violaceous at the top, soon grayish-brown, annulate with distinct white ring above the middle, concentrically subannulate below with white flecks, (Kauffman), 3-5cm x 0.3-0.5cm, equal, soon hollow; dark violaceous at top, grayish brown below, decorated with numerous white woolly patches of universal veil, ending above in a distinct white fibrillose band-like ring, (PNW keys)

VEIL white, abundant, forming a ring-zone and rendering the stem below girdled-flocculose, (Brandrud)

ODOR usually strong of pelargonium leaves (Brandrud), mild, (Kauffman), mild (PNW keys)

TASTE mild (Kauffman)

HABITAT coniferous and deciduous forests, (Brandrud for Europe), among mosses, in coniferous swamps (Kauffman), under conifers, especially spruce, (PNW keys)

MICROSCOPIC spores 8-9 x 5-6 microns, (broadly) elliptic, distinctly verrucose, for var. *flabellus* (7)7.5-8.5 x 5-6 microns, for var. *inolens* (7.5)8-9 x 5-6 microns, (Brandrud), 7-7.5 x 4-5 microns, elliptic, slightly rough, (Kauffman)

NAME ORIGIN means 'crooked-footed' (Latin)

SIMILAR like *hemitrichus* which has no violet colors in the flesh of cap or stem (PNW keys)

SOURCES Brandrud*, Kauffman(3), PNW keys, Smith(12)

FAMILY Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales