

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 traganus* Fr. *Epicr. Syst. Mycol.* p.281. 1838; *Cortinarius pyriodorus* C.Kauffman?

ENGLISH NAME(S) lilac conifer *Cortinarius*

NOTES subgenus *Sericeocybe*, recognized by lilac colors, dry surface of cap and stem, brown yellow flesh, and the particular fruitlike odor; *pyriodorus* has often been confused with *traganus*, some call European one (which smells like goats according to so

CAP 4-10cm, (hemi-)spherical, then convex, sometimes with a distinct broad umbo, often irregular and wavy at margin; pale lilac, soon decolored, sometimes thoroughly grayish white, with age yellowish brown spotted; felted, then patched from the veil, (Brandrud), 4-13cm, obtuse or convex becoming flat or broadly umbonate; violet to lilac, sometimes with white wedge-shaped sectors, occasionally also with rusty or ochraceous stains; smooth, dry, finely silky or fibrillose, margin often hung with veil remnants, (Arora)

FLESH compact; hygrophanous-marbled, becoming saffron- to brown-yellow from base, (Brandrud), rusty brown to tawny-brown or yellow-brown often marbled in stem, usually paler in cap and yellower in stem base, (Arora)

GILLS (moderately) crowded; brown-yellow to grayish brown, later vivid brown-yellow; edge paler, (Brandrud), adnexed to adnate, fairly well-spaced; pale cinnamon or ochre-buff becoming cinnamon-brown or rusty-brown when old, (Arora)

STEM 5-10cm x 0.8-2cm, clubshaped-bulbous (to 3.5cm), coarsely fibrillose, pale lilac, yellowish brown from base with age; woolly girdle formed by abundant veil which is lilac at first but soon yellowish, (Brandrud), 5-12cm x 1-3(5)cm, usually enlarged below, solid; lilac or purplish, sometimes also with white areas; dry, finely fibrillose, (Arora)

VEIL lilac, soon pale yellowish, abundant, forming a woolly girdle, (Brandrud), cortina pale lilac, leaving hairs on stem, (Arora)



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ODOR strong, especially on the gills, fruity and characteristic, (Brandrud), often faintly pungent or sweet, (Arora), strong, of overripe pears, (Phillips), strong, pungent, sometimes faint, described as either pleasant or unpleasant, (Lincoff(2)), strong, penetrating smell of billygoat or acetylene, sometimes fruity, (Lincoff(1)), strongly of acetylene (pear liqueur) (Courtecuisse), pungent and pleasant or disagreeable (Bessette(2)), usually fairly strong, pungent penetrating odor, some forms have spicy or fragrant odor, like overripe pears, (Ammirati)

TASTE a touch bitter (Phillips), sweet (Lincoff(1)), not distinctive or slightly bitter (Bessette(2))

EDIBILITY poisonous according to one source and indigestible according to another (Arora)

HABITAT coniferous forests (Brandrud), solitary, scattered or gregarious (sometimes in clumps) under conifers, (Arora)

SPORE DEPOSIT rusty-brown (Arora, Phillips)

MICROSCOPIC spores 8-10 x 5-6 microns, elliptic to almond-shaped, distinctly verrucose, (Brandrud), spores 7-10 x 5-6 microns, elliptic, rough, (Arora)

NAME ORIGIN means 'pertaining to goats', referring to the smell as recorded in Europe

SIMILAR like alboviolaceus (which is paler with no smell of overripe pears) ; like camphoratus (blue-violaceous flesh and gills and odor or rotting vegetables); like pyriodorus (considered same species by some, see NOTES above); like fragrans in smelling like overripe pears and in having bluish gills, but fragrans has paler cap and whitish or lavender-tinged flesh in stem

SOURCES Brandrud*, Arora, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Lincoff(1)*, Courtecuisse*, Bessette(2) (pyriodorus*, traganus*), Ammirati*, Ammirati(5), Kauffman(2), Barron*

FAMILY Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales