

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) *Gomphus clavatus* S.F. Gray Nat. Arr. Brit. Pl. 1: 638. 1821; *Cantharellus clavatus* Fr.

ENGLISH NAME(S) pig's ears, pig's ear *Gomphus*

NOTES not a true gilled species but has radiating ridges on underside of cap; distinguished by shape like chopped-off lopsided club, dull purplish veined cap undersurface, growth in fused clusters, and elongate spores; common name "pig's ears" is also used for the Ascomycete *Discina perlata*; *clavatus* found at least BC, WA, OR, ID, MB, NB, NS, ON, PQ, CA, MA, MI, NH, NC, NY, TN, TX, Mexico, (Petersen), common

CAP 2-10(15)cm, 6-20cm or more high, flat or depressed, nearly cylindrical to more or less clublike, margin often wavy or lobed and often more developed on one side than the other, fruiting bodies often growing in fused or compound clusters; light purplish to purplish-tan to olive-brown, olive-buff, tan, or yellowish-buff; moist or dry but not viscid, smooth or breaking up into minute scales, (Arora), (3)5-10(15)cm, at first scarcely differentiated from stem, the fruiting bodies resembling truncate clubs, soon the margin spreading and developing almost entirely on one side, frequently becoming broadly funnel-shaped or fanshaped, the margin usually lobed or wavy when old; dull vinaceous to purplish but soon fading to sordid brown; dry, bald, unpolished to velvety, at times minutely scaly when old, (Smith)

FLESH thick, firm; white or buff, (Arora), thick in disc but thin, about 0.5cm, in margin; whitish to pale buff, (Smith)



Boleslaw Kuznik (MykoWeb)



Michael Beug



Michael Beug

GILLS deeply decurrent, shallow, blunt veins or wrinkles, forking, occasionally with pore-like appearance; usually dull purple to purplish-tan or at least showing some purple tints near stem, slowly fading to dull ochre, tan, or buff, (Arora), decurrent almost to stem, low, crowded, frequently forked or anastomosing ridges and with numerous thick veins connecting the ridges, at times almost porous in appearance; variable in color but usually tinged purplish or vinaceous

STEM 3-5(10)cm x 1-3cm, central or off-center, continuous with cap, equal or narrowed at base, often curved, solid, firm, often fused to others at base; buff to pale purple, (Arora), 4-10cm x 0.8-3cm, thick in lower part and expanding into the cap, frequently compound, sometimes many fused at base into a large fleshy mass, solid becoming hollow, purplish drab in upper part, whitish below from thin mycelioid covering, (Smith)

VEIL none

ODOR mild (Smith), mild or faintly earthy (Phillips)

TASTE mild (Smith), mushroomy (Phillips), musty (Castellano)

EDIBILITY edible, but some get severe gastric upset

HABITAT scattered to gregarious often in fused pairs or clusters, under conifers, (Arora), occasionally gregarious but usually cespitose (tufted) or in compound clusters, which may even occur in fairy rings, typically on humus though often near very decayed logs, most abundant under conifers, (Smith)

SPORE DEPOSIT pale tan to pale ochre (Arora), pale alutaceous (Smith)

MICROSCOPIC spores 10-13 x 4-6.5 microns, elliptic, slightly wrinkled or warty, (Arora), narrowly elliptic to spindle-shaped (Besette), spores 10-12(13) x 5-6 microns, narrowly elliptic, outer wall somewhat roughened, yellowish in iodine (inamyloid); basidia 4-spored, 65-80(90) x 7-9 microns, hymenium dull orange revived in KOH; cystidia none seen; clamp connections abundant, (Smith)

NAME ORIGIN means 'clavate' (clubshaped)

SIMILAR like the rare *Gomphus pseudoclavatus* = *Pseudocantharellus pseudoclavatus* = *Cantharellus pseudoclavatus* found at least in Michigan and Northern California, which has slightly larger smooth spores 13-16 x 5.5-7 microns, and thin sections of the undersurface turn bister in KOH instead of orange to orange-brown

SOURCES Smith(11) (as *Cantharellus clavatus*), Arora*, Lincoff(2)*, Ammirati*, Besette(2)*, McKnight*, Courtecuisse*, Barron*, Redhead(5), Petersen(9), Castellano(2)*

FAMILY Gomphaceae of Order Phallales



Alvin Funk



Sharon Godkin