

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) *Gymnopilus punctifolius* (Peck) Singer Lilloa 22: 561. 1951; *Flammula punctifolia* (Peck) A.H.Smith

ENGLISH NAME(S) blue-green flamecap

NOTES features include dry cap which is pinky-brown lilac at first then dull greenish with bluish green bloom, or green blue and yellow mixed, greenish yellow flesh, adnate to sinuate gills which are olive-yellow becoming tan dotted with yellow or rusty-red stains when old and finally cinnamon, striate cap-colored stem which may have lilac mycelium at base, bitter taste, growth on rich humus and coniferous wood, and brownish rust spore deposit; cap and stem colors fade quickly after picking, but dried fruiting bodies may retain blue-green to green tints; found at least WA, OR, ID, CA, (Hesler) and on foray lists from BC

CAP 2.5-10cm, convex becoming flatter with an inrolled margin; button pinky-brown lilac then dull greenish or bluish green, blue and yellow mixed; dry, slightly hairy or scaly around disc, (Phillips), 2.5-10cm, convex to nearly flat, margin involute (inrolled); buttons lilac-vinaceous, then dull-green with a bluish green bloom, or variable, green, blue and yellow mixed, dried caps olivaceous to near "Isabella color"; dry, often fibrillose and squamulose around the disc, becoming bald with age, (Hesler), 2.5-10cm, convex to nearly flat, margin incurved when young and often remaining so when old, often wavy at maturity; dull purple-red with bluish green to greenish yellow, olive or brown tones; dry, often fibrillose over the disc when young, becoming smooth with age, (Bessette)

FLESH thin at the margin; greenish yellow, in stem staining brownish yellow or olive-ochre within, (Hesler), thin at the edge; greenish yellow, (Phillips), moderately thick, firm; greenish-yellow, (Bessette)



Paul Kroeger



Michael Beug

GILLS adnate to sinuate, close to subdistant, broad; olive-yellow when young, becoming dotted with yellow or rusty-red stains when old, particularly at the edges, (Phillips), adnate or sinuate to deeply emarginate, close to subdistant, broad; "yellowish olive" when young, becoming "Isabella", dotted with yellow or ferruginous stains, finally cinnamon; edges often stained yellowish tawny or ferruginous, (Hesler), attached to sinuate when young, often deeply emarginate when old, close, broad, with numerous subgills; yellowish olive when young, becoming pinkish cinnamon at maturity, (Bessette)

STEM 10-15cm x 0.5-1.0cm, stuffed then hollow, wavy; colored as cap; lined, (Phillips), (2.5)10-15cm x 0.5-1.0(1.4)cm, flexuous, stuffed then hollow; colored as cap; striate, (Hesler), nearly equal, or sometimes enlarged near top or base, becoming hollow when old; same color as cap; with fine streaks, (Bessette), may have lilac mycelium at base (Paul Kroeger, pers. comm.)

VEIL none (Hesler)

ODOR pleasant, not distinctive, (Phillips), agreeable or not distinctive (Hesler), not distinctive (Bessette)

TASTE very bitter (Hesler, Phillips), bitter (Bessette)

EDIBILITY no (Phillips)

HABITAT singly or scattered on debris, rich humus, and coniferous wood, (Phillips), on coniferous wood, debris, and rich humus, (Hesler), scattered, in groups or clusters on the ground or on decaying wood under conifers, (Bessette)

SPORE DEPOSIT brownish rust (Phillips), reddish yellow (Bessette)

MICROSCOPIC spores 4-5.5(6.5) x 3.5-4(5) microns, oval or suboval or short elliptic in face view, slightly inequilateral in profile, finely warty or rough (asperulate), no germ pore, dextrinoid, (Hesler); basidia 4-spored, 27-34 x 5-7 microns; pleurocystidia 27-43 x 3-5 microns, slender-ventricose, colorless, capitate, basidioles 23-30 x 3-5 microns, clavate, brown, cheilocystidia 20-30 x 3-4 microns, ventricose, capitate, more rarely filiform; gill trama subparallel, hyphae 4-8 microns broad; cap trama radial, cuticle a repent zone of brown hyphae, bearing a turf of slender, erect, filamentous to subventricose, capitate pileocystidia 36-57 x 1.5-3 microns; caulocystidia 18-42 x 4-7 microns, flask-shaped, or ventricose, neck often slender, capitate or more commonly non-capitate, forming a turf; clamp connections present, (Hesler)

NAME ORIGIN means 'dotted gills'

SIMILAR aeruginosus also has bluish gray-green, pinkish and red colors: among other differences, it has a partial veil, and larger spores; like Cortinarius species but Gymnopilus punctifolius has no partial veil

SOURCES Hesler(2), Phillips*, Bessette(1)*, McKnight*

FAMILY Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales