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) Hohenbuehelia nigra (Schw.) Singer; Pleurotus niger (Schw.) Sacc.; Resupinatus niger (Schw.) Murrill

NOTES features are jet-black almost bald cup-shaped cap, dark gills, growth on hardwoods, elliptic spores, and lanceolate metuloids which may be visible on gills with handlens; found at least OR, MT, YT

CAP up to 0.8cm broad and 0.6cm deep, cupulate to conchate, dorsally attached; black, with olive brown margin (as revived); bald except for a few scattered white hairs, not striate

GILLS radiating from point of attachment, moderately narrow and close; dingy olive brown (as revived); markedly spiny under 10x

STEM sessile or with short pseudostem

HABITAT on dead deciduous wood of Juglans (walnut) and Alnus (alder)

MICROSCOPIC spores (6.0)7.5-10(10.5) x 3.5-4.5 microns, smooth, elliptic-beanshaped, inamyloid; basidia (2-)4-spored, clavate-cylindric, 28-38 x 6.5-8 microns; cheilocystidia abundant, variable, fusoid or clavate with drawn out neck, 9-35 x 5-6 microns, neck 5-9 x 2-3 microns, hour-glass about 4-2.5 microns, mucous ball 5-6 microns diameter, metuloids lanceolate, inner wall brown (middle of three apparent layers), metuloids extending 10-18 microns above hymenium, 33-75 x 8-12(14) microns

NAME ORIGIN means 'black'

SIMILAR other Hohenbuehelia species with small dark caps, dark gills and usually brown-walled metuloids, including crustosa, mustaliensis (found Finland and Alberta, distinguished by habitat on bark of dead pine and tomentose cap), pinacearum (found Europe and northeastern North America on bark of conifers), subbarbata, unguicularis (Europe and Northern North America including Manitoba, Yukon Territory, in spring, cupshaped to fanshaped caps with pale tomentum near attachment, gills that are silvery to pale tan becoming dark, and clubshaped metuloids)

SOURCES Thorn(2)

FAMILY Pleurotaceae of Order Agaricales