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) Inocybe lilacina (Boud.) C.Kauffman Agar. Mich. 466. 1918; Inocybe geophylla var. lilacina (Peck) Gill.

ENGLISH NAME(S) lilac Inocybe, lilac fiberhead

NOTES features include relatively small size for Inocybe, lilac color, dry silky-fibrillose umbonate cap, close gills that are pallid or tinged lilac then grayish to dull brown, fibrillose stem that is more or less equal, spermatic odor, brown spore deposit, and smooth spores; considered by some including Kuyper(1) (1986) a variety of geophylla; common in the Pacific Northwest, found in WA, OR, ID, CA, New England to NC and MN, Europe, according to Kauffman, and included frequently on foray lists from BC, Kuyper examined collections from Austria, Belgium, France, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom (England)

CAP 1.5-4(5)cm, obtusely conical or bell-shaped, expanding when old but often retaining an umbo; pale to deep lilac, but often with pinkish gray or brownish tones (or ochre at center) and often paler or whiter when old; dry, silky-fibrillose to nearly smooth, (Arora), 1-3cm, bellshaped-convex, umbonate; "light-vinaceous-purple" to "vinaceous-lilac", color somewhat persistent when dried; dry, innately silky, glossy, (Kauffman)

FLESH thin; white or tinged lilac, (Arora), white (Kauffman)

GILLS adnate to adnexed or notched, close; pallid or tinged lilac, then grayish to dull brown; the edges whitish often, (Arora), adnate, rounded near stem, medium broad, somewhat ventricose (broader in middle); whitish at first, then grayish-clay-colored or darker, (Kauffman)

STEM 2.5-6cm x 0.3-1cm, equal or slightly thicker at base, firm; colored more or less like cap or with white areas, base whitish; finely fibrillose, (Arora), 2-4cm x 0.2-0.4cm, equal, somewhat bulbous, persistently stuffed; the same color as cap but paler; silky, (Kauffman)

Alvin Funk

Michael Beug

VEIL fibrillose, evanescent or leaving a very slight hairy zone on stem, (Arora), cobwebby fleeting partial veil (Bessette)

ODOR disagreeable (spermatic), (Arora)

TASTE not distinctive or somewhat disagreeable (Bessette)

EDIBILITY poisonous, contains muscarine, (Arora)

HABITAT solitary, scattered or in groups on ground in woods, (Arora), in deciduous and coniferous woods, (Kauffman)

SPORE DEPOSIT brown (Arora)

MICROSCOPIC spores 7-9 x 4-5 microns, elliptic, smooth, cystidia on gills thick-walled, (Arora); spores 7-9 x 4.5-5.5 microns, elliptic, inequilateral, smooth; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia abundant, 45-55 x 12-15 microns, thick-walled, short, ventricose-subfusiform (wider in middle - somewhat spindle-shaped), on a short pedicel, (Kauffman), spores 7-9 x 4.5-5.5 microns, elliptic to oval, smooth, thin-walled; basidia 4-spored, 25-34 x 6-8 microns; pleurocystidia abundant, 40-58 x 10-18 microns, fusoid-ventricose, thick-walled, cheilocystidia abundant, similar to pleurocystidia; pileipellis a trichodermium of radially arranged hyphae 5-7 microns in diameter with clamp connections present

NAME ORIGIN refers to lilac color

SIMILAR geophylla especially when old (and some consider it a variety of geophylla), but lilac when young to mature; like other lilac mushrooms but distinguished by small size, umbonate cap, and brown spores; similar Cortinarius species are usually larger and have rusty brown spores

SOURCES Kauffman(4), Arora*, Lincoff(2)*, Bessette(1)*(Inocybe geophylla var. lilacina (Peck) Gill.), Kauffman(4)

FAMILY Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales

Hannah Nadel

Michael Beug

Boleslaw Kuznik