# 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)** Laccaria amethysteo-occidentalis G.M. Mueller Mycotaxon 20: 103-105. 1984 Mycotaxon 20(1): 103. 1984

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** 'western amethyst Laccaria'

**NOTES** features include hygrophanous violet to brownish purple cap, sinuate well-spaced gills which are purple to violet, long dry striate purple violet stem with violet mycelium at base, mild odor and taste, growth under conifers, white spore deposit, and finely spiny spores which are nearly round to broadly elliptic; found at least BC, WA, OR and common, Mueller examined collections from BC, WA, OR, CA

**CAP** 1-6.5(8.9)cm, obtuse to convex to flat, often depressed, margin inrolled or downcurved at first; hygrophanous, deep purple when fresh, fading to vinaceous, finally becoming buff; not striate when fresh, but sometimes translucent-striate on fading, finely fibrillose to fibrillose-scaly, (Mueller)

**FLESH** violet (Phillips)

**GILLS** sinuate to arcuate, subdistant to distant, narrow to broad, thick, occasionally waxy; dark violaceous, fading lighter (near "lavender"), (Mueller)

**STEM** 1.8-11.5cm x 0.3-1.2cm, equal to slightly clubshaped or slightly bulbous; purple, often with lighter violet to white scattered areas, basal mycelium violet; dry, fibrillose, longitudinally striate, occasionally with curled up scales, (Mueller)

**VEIL** none

**ODOR** not distinctive (Phillips)

**TASTE** not distinctive (Phillips)

**EDIBILITY** yes (Phillips)

**HABITAT** scattered to gregarious under conifers, often Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii), (Mueller)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** white (Mueller(2))

Taylor F Lockwood

Hannah Nadel

**MICROSCOPIC** spores (6.4)7.4-10.6 x 6.4-9.2 microns, nearly round to broadly elliptic, rarely round or elliptic to almond-shaped, echinulate (spiny), echinulae < 0.5-1.4(-1.8) microns long, (mean 1 +/- 0.3 microns), 1 micron wide at base, crowded, hilar appendix 1.3-2 microns long, prominent, and truncate, plage present, occasionally one droplet, (Mueller); basidia 4-spored, 34-56.5 x 9.7-14.7 microns, clavate, elongate, colorless, sterigmata up to 9 microns long; pleurocystidia absent, cheilocystidia often abundant, 36.5-66.5 x 12-18.5 microns, subclavate to clavate, thin walled, colorless, (Mueller)

**NAME ORIGIN** means 'pertaining to amethyst-western', amethysteus = pertaining to amethyst (Latin), occidentalis = western (Latin)

**SIMILAR** amethystina (and in same group) but amethystina has nearly round moderate to long-spined spores, (instead of nearly round to broadly elliptic short-spined spores, is smaller and less deep purple, (Mueller), and fades to buff or gray rather than buff or brown; like the other North American purple Laccaria, L. vinaceo-brunnea but amethysteo-occidentalis has robust size, different color of mature fruiting bodies, and microscopically a cap cuticle of scattered fascicles rather than individual perpendicular hyphae, (Mueller)

**SOURCES** Mueller, Mueller(2), Arora*, Phillips*

**FAMILY** Hydnangiaceae of Order Agaricales

Boleslaw Kuznik