

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 bicolor* (R.Maire) Orton Trans. Brit. Mycol. Soc. 43: 177. 1960

ENGLISH NAME(S) two-colored *Laccaria*

NOTES features include dry ochraceous tan cap which fades to pinkish ochre, adnate gills which are purplish or pale lilac to pallid with age, stem colored as cap but with lilac tomentum at base, white spore deposit and spiny broadly elliptic spores; fairly common in Pacific Northwest, but not as common as *laccata* or *amethysteo-occidentalis*, found BC, WA, OR, ID, Mueller examined collections from BC, WA, OR, ID, also NB, ON, AK, CA, MI, also reported Europe, Asia, Africa

CAP 2-5cm, convex-flattened; ochraceous tan drying to pinkish ochre; dry, smooth to slightly scaly

FLESH thin; whitish ochre

GILLS adnate, thick, somewhat waxy; purplish or pale lilac to pallid with age

STEM 5-14cm x 0.4-1.0cm, equal, color as cap, but with lilac tomentum at base (which may fade to white, leading to confusion with *laccata*), fibrillose

VEIL none

ODOR pleasant

TASTE pleasant

EDIBILITY yes

HABITAT in mixed woodlands

SPORE DEPOSIT white

MICROSCOPIC spores (5.5)7-8.7(10) x (5.5)6-7.8(9.2) microns, nearly round to broadly elliptic, occasionally round or elliptic, echinulate echinulae 1-1.8 microns long, 1 micron wide at base, hilar appendix 1.3-2microns long, prominent, truncate, plage present, occasionally uniguttulate, (Mueller); basidia 4-spored, 28.5-55 x 7.4-13 microns, clavate, colorless; sterigmata up to 9 microns long; cheilocystidia absent to abundant, 24.5-55 x 2.5-8 microns, filamentous to subclavate, thin-walled, colorless, (Mueller), spores 7-9.5 x 6-7.5 microns, oval, spiny, inamyloid, (Phillips)

NAME ORIGIN means 'two-colored' (Latin)

SIMILAR differs from *laccata* in having lilac tone in gills and basal mycelium and from *amethysteo-occidentalis* in having lilac tone limited to these areas; like *nobilis* which is larger, scaly to squarrose cap, scaly to almost reticulate stem, and lacks obvious cheilocystidia

SOURCES Phillips*, Ammirati*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Bessette(1)*, Courtecuisse*, Mueller(2), Breitenbach(3)*

FAMILY Hydnangiaceae of Order Agaricales