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) Lentinellus ursinus (Fries) Kuehner in Le Botaniste 17: 99. 1926; Lentinus castoreus (Fr.) Romagn.; Lentinellus pusio Romagn.; Lentinellus anastomosans Rick

ENGLISH NAME(S) bear Lentinellus

NOTES recognized by shell shape with little or no stem, brown cap color with velvety to fuzzy surface at least in center, gills with ragged or coarsely toothed edges, peppery taste, growth on wood, white spore deposit, and small nearly round amyloid spiny spores; found at least ID (common), WA, reported from BC, Miller examined material from WA, ID, PQ, AL, AZ, CA, DC, FL, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MS, NH, NJ, NM, NY, OH, PA, TN, TX, VT, Brazil, Austria, France, Sweden, India

CAP 6-8.4cm broad, 6.5-8cm long, hoof-shaped or irregularly lobed shell-shaped, often depressed either in center or around point of attachment; umber, bay or date-brown with paler cinnamon margin, drying entirely fulvous-buff; entirely velvety tomentose

FLESH thin, except at attachment; pale date brown or horn-colored under cap cortex, pale cream to grayish cream-buff below, horn-colored over gills, (Watling), 0.1-0.3cm thick, firm, fleshy, a dense woolly brown cap cuticle creates a duplex effect when sections are made through non-bald areas of cap; white, "pinkish buff" to "avellaneous", (Miller), thin, (Arora)

Ben Woo

Boleslaw Kuznik

GILLS radiating from point of attachment, subcrowded; whitish, pale cream or creamy-buff, often becoming darker cinnamon buff or umber at point of attachment, pale milky coffee or pale fulvous buff when old; margin slightly to distinctly dentate, (Watling), radiating from point of attachment, often decurrent when the base is broad, close to subdistant, broad; light pink, "avellaneous", pale vinaceous buff to darker dingy "vinaceous-buff" to "pale pinkish cinnamon", light reddish brown to light brown when dry; serrulate to coarsely serrate (finely to coarsely saw-toothed), sometimes lacerate when old, (Miller),decurrent (if stem present), close, broad; dingy white to pinkish-brown; with ragged or coarsely toothed edges, (Arora)

STEM rudimentary or replaced by broad, irregularly shaped woody base 0.8-2.0cm broad, (Watling), sessile (without a stem), (Miller), absent or rudimentary (Arora)

VEIL absent (Arora)

ODOR fairly strong, acid-fragrant, peculiar, (Watling), usually fruity, sometimes fungoid, (Miller), not distinctive (Phillips)

TASTE peppery, sometimes develops slowly after chewing, (Watling), strongly peppery sometimes slowly but most often instantly, (Miller), slowly acrid or bitter (Arora), strongly peppery (Phillips)

EDIBILITY inedible due to bitter or peppery taste (Arora)

HABITAT occasionally single, more often gregarious, sometimes imbricate (shingled), usually in deep woods in moist shaded areas, on the sides of debarked logs and limbs, sometimes on stumps, growing on both conifers and hardwoods, (Miller), on rotting logs and stumps, usually in groups or shelving clusters on hardwoods and conifers, (Arora)

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Arora, Miller)

MICROSCOPIC spores 3-4 x 2.5-3 microns, nearly round or broadly ovoid, minutely asperulate (roughened with tiny points) or appearing smooth, amyloid, (Watling); basidia 4-spored, 12-25 x 3-7.5 microns, narrowly clavate, colorless in water and alkali; pl

NAME ORIGIN means 'of bears'

SIMILAR like vulpinus which has cap radially ribbed, pubescence is paler (whitish) and base is stemlike

SOURCES Miller(10) (colors in quotes from Ridgway), Watling(2), Arora*, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Bessette(2)*, Courtecuisse*, Barron*, Redhead(5)

FAMILY Auriscalpiaceae of Order Russulales