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) Lepista glaucocana (Bres.) Singer; Clitocybe glaucocana

NOTES features include moist cap that is pale watery buff with faint purple tint, crowded narrow gills that are gray with faint purplish or pinkish tinge, stem that is off-white or near the color of the gills, pinkish gray to brownish pink spore deposit, and elliptic minutely rough spores; found at least WA, MA, MI, also Europe

CAP 5-10(15)cm, conic to hemispheric becoming convex to flat and wavy, margin incurved for a long time, later sharp; pale violet, whitish with gray-blue to ocherish tints; smooth, dull, (Breitenbach), 6-15cm, obtuse then broadly convex, becoming flat, margin inrolled at first, disc with umbo at times or shallowly depressed when old; 'pale watery buff with faint purple tint, ("pale pinkish buff", "tilleul buff", or "pale brownish drab"), disc becoming brownish vinaceous ("vinaceous fawn") in age'; moist, bald, edges of margin pruinose tomentose, split when old, (Bigelow), 6-15cm, at first obtuse, then broadly convex with inrolled edge, becoming flat or retaining obtuse knob, edge split when old; pale watery buff with faint purple tint, center darkening slightly to a grayed yellowish pink when old, (PNW keys)

FLESH thick, soft; whitish, (Breitenbach), thick, firm but brittle; white or with faint vinaceous tinge, in stem grayish vinaceous or colored as gills, (Bigelow), thick, firm but brittle; white or with faint pinkish tinge, (PNW keys)

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GILLS notched, 98-120 reach stem, 5-7(11) subgills between each pair of gills, narrow; whitish becoming pale pink-lilac to pink-ocherish; edges smooth, (Breitenbach), adnate or adnexed to sinuate, crowded, narrow, up to 0.7cm broad; 'faintly purplish-tinged ("pale mouse gray", "pallid mouse drab"), at times more vinaceous ("pale grayish vinaceous") in age', (Bigelow), squarely attached or notched, crowded, thin, narrow (up to 0.7cm), equal; gray with faint purplish or pinkish tinge, (PNW keys)

STEM 5-8 x 1-2(2.5)cm, cylindric, base sometimes widened and bent, solid, pithy-fibrous; "white longitudinally fibrillose to grooved on pink-violet or ocherish translucent background", (Breitenbach), 5-9cm x 1-2.5cm, equal or base widened to clubshaped, solid; pallid or nearly colored as gills; fibrillose, top floccose scabrous to furfuraceous in upper part, becoming appressed in lower part then often longitudinally striate, base with pallid mycelium or tomentum, (Bigelow), 5-9cm x 1.0-2.5cm at top, equal or base enlarged to club-shaped, solid; off-white or near color of gills; base with off-white mycelium or wool, (PNW keys)

VEIL none

ODOR rather unpleasantly herbaceous with a farinaceous component (Breitenbach), fragrant or none (Bigelow, PNW keys)

TASTE mild, somewhat unpleasant, (Breitenbach), mild (Bigelow, PNW keys)

EDIBILITY yes (PNW keys)

HABITAT gregarious, in fairy rings or rows, in hardwood and coniferous forests, also along forest edges, on leaf and needle litter or among grass, (Breitenbach), gregarious to somewhat cespitose (tufted) in a cedar swamps, on a trash heap, (Bigelow), or along roads where organic material is present in the fill, (PNW keys)

SPORE DEPOSIT beige-pink (Breitenbach), vinaceous buff or "pale vinaceous fawn", (Bigelow), pinkish gray to brownish pink (PNW keys)

MICROSCOPIC spores 5.8-8.4 x 3.5-4.7 microns, elliptic, almost smooth to finely verrucose (warty), (Breitenbach); basidia 4-spored, 23-29 x 6-7.5 microns, clavate, with basal clamp; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia not seen; cap cuticle of +/- irregular hyphae 2-4 microns wide, occasional hyphae ascending and with exserted ends, septa with clamp connections, (Breitenbach), spores 5.5-7.5 x 3-4.5 microns, elliptic, verruculose (finely warty), inamyloid, ornamentation cyanophilic; basidia 4-spored, 19-38 x 5.5-7.5 microns; clamp connections present, (Bigelow)

NAME ORIGIN glaucocana means "whitish, pale blue-green" 'glaucus' is Latin for sea-colored and can mean 'bluish green' or 'gray', 'canus' is Latin for 'ash-gray'

SIMILAR like nuda (microscopically the same), and overmature or faded specimens may be impossible to separate, but glaucocana never has the deep violet tones of nuda; like saeva which lacks any violet or purplish in the cap and does not have a fragrant odor; very pale forms of glaucocana can be confused with irina

SOURCES Bigelow(5) (as Clitocybe), Breitenbach(3), PNW keys, Lincoff(1)*(as Clitocybe), Courtecuisse*, Smith(6)

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales