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) Neolentinus ponderosus (O.K.Miller) Redhead & Ginns Trans. Mycol. Soc. Japan 26: 357. 1985; == Lentinus ponderosus O.K.Miller Mycologia 57: 941-943. 1965

ENGLISH NAME(S) large Lentinus, ponderous Lentinus

NOTES characterized by large light-colored tough caps which break up into large scales, serrated gills, growth on or near dead conifers, and narrow smooth inamyloid spores; reported at least BC, WA, OR, ID, CA, MT

CAP 10-50cm or more, convex to flat or somewhat depressed, margin often slightly incurved at first; white to tan, yellowish, brownish, or pinkish-brown, usually discoloring yellowish or orangish when old; surface dry or slightly tacky, at first smooth but in most cases soon breaking up into large cinnamon-brown scales, revealing the white flesh beneath, margin cottony

FLESH thick, tough, not readily decaying; white (but may age or bruised yellowish)

GILLS typically decurrent, or adnate, fairly close, narrow, gills alternating with subgills that extend up to two thirds toward stem; white to yellowish but often developing orangish to rusty-brown stains when old; edges serrated or torn, at least at maturity

STEM 5-20cm x 2-8cm, central or off-center, tapering down, usually with a narrowed rooting base, solid, hard, tough, whitish aging yellowish to brown or rusty-orange, often with brownish or reddish brown patches or scales

VEIL absent

ODOR often fragrant, (Arora), fruity or not distinctive, (Bessette)

EDIBILITY choice, but thorough cooking or parboiling required because of toughness, (Arora), edible when young and tender (Bessette)

HABITAT solitary or in groups or clusters on or near dead conifers occasionally hardwoods, (but often appearing terrestrial) in late spring, summer and early fall, produces a brown rot in its host

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Arora), dull white to buff (Bessette)



Alvin Funk



Michael Beug

MICROSCOPIC spores 8-12 x 3-5.5 microns, elliptic, smooth, inamyloid, (Arora), spores 8-10.5 x 3.5-4.4 microns, elliptic in face view, subfusiform (somewhat spindle-shaped) in side view, inamyloid, thin-walled; basidia 4-spored, 26-36 x 5-8.8 microns, clavate, thin-walled; pleurocystidia and cheilocystidia 20-64 x 3.5-6.0 microns, narrowly clavate to hypha-like, thin-walled, colorless; clamp connections numerous, (Bessette)

NAME ORIGIN means 'heavy'

SIMILAR lepideus which is smaller with thinner stem, has a partial veil and thickened recurved squamules (fine scales) on cap and stem, ponderosus has narrow close gills, (Bessette); Catathelasma imperiale which has a veil and is terrestrial; like Clitocybe gigantea which has a fragile cap and is terrestrial; like Panus strigosus which has a hairy cap, non-serrated gills and grows on hardwoods; like lepideus if small, but lepideus has a veil and thickened recurved squamules on cap and stem and gills not as narrow and close

SOURCES Arora (as Lentinus)*, Lincoff(2) (as Lentinus)*, Bessette(1)*

FAMILY Polyporaceae of Order Polyporales



Boleslaw Kuznik



Boleslaw Kuznik