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) Omphalina ericetorum (Fr.) M.Lange Macromycetes Pt. II, Greenland Agaricales, Meddel. om Groenland 147: 25. 1955; Phytoconis ericetorum (Pers.: Fr.) Redhead & Kuyper; Gerronema ericetorum (Pers.:Fr.) Singer

ENGLISH NAME(S) lichen agaric

NOTES Lichenomphalia ericetorum (L.: Fr.) Redhead, Lutzoni, Moncalvo, and Vilgalys is a new name proposed in 2002 (Redhead(60)) for this species; principal fieldmarks are small size, depressed cap, decurrent gills, thin stem and association with the lichen Botrydina vulgaris; always associated with Botrydina vulgaris which is the vegetative stage, the mushroom being the reproductive stage, the joint organism forming a basidio-lichen; found BC, WA, OR, ID, also MB, NS, NF, NT, NU, ON, PQ, YT, AK, CA, MI, MT, NY, (Redhead(6)), NC, NH, VT, (Bigelow), probably the most common arctic agaric, also common further south, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia

CAP 0.5-2.5(3.5)cm at first, flat with an incurved margin, becoming deeply depressed or funnel-shaped when old, margin often wavy; dull cinnamon to brownish, fading to yellowish or straw color or whitish as it ages; smooth, not viscid, bald, margin striate, (Arora), 0.5-1.5(3.5)cm, flat at first with margin decurved (downcurved), disc soon shallowly depressed, when old sometimes broadly funnel-shaped; somewhat hygrophanous, brown when young becoming paler and more yellowish when old and with loss of moisture, finally pale yellowish to whitish, disc often remaining dark for some time; moist but not viscid, bald, margin striate when moist and often somewhat crenate (scalloped), plicate (pleated) at times, opaque when old and fading, (Bigelow)

FLESH very thin, pliant, (Arora), very thin, pliant; colored as cap, (Bigelow)

Sharon Godkin

Boleslaw Kuznik

GILLS decurrent, well-spaced; pale yellowish, sometimes veined, (Arora), moderately decurrent to long decurrent (evenly), subdistant or distant, narrow to moderately broad, 0.1-0.3cm, thin, arched, at times forked, sometimes interveined; pale yellowish to pale creamy; edges even, (Bigelow), decurrent, widely spaced, pale yellowish, (Phillips)

STEM 1-3cm x 0.1-0.3cm, equal or enlarged at base, often curved, pliant; pale reddish brown above, yellow-brown to pale brown below, often pale yellowish when old; smooth, (Arora), 1-2.5(3)cm x 0.1-0.2(0.3)cm, equal or either end slightly enlarged, round in cross-section, often curved, solid or hollow, cartilaginous appearing but pliant; vinaceous brown at top when young, paler below, top remaining with vinaceous brown tint for some times but fading to pale yellowish below; bald or nearly so in upper part, base with slight white tomentum, and sometimes pubescent in upper part if embedded in wet moss, (Bigelow)

ODOR not distinctive (Bigelow)

TASTE not distinctive (Bigelow)

EDIBILITY no value (Arora)

HABITAT usually in groups on old lichen-laden conifer logs, or scum-covered soil, always in association with the lichen Botrydina vulgaris, (Arora), scattered to gregarious, associated with the lichen Botrydina vulgaris on moss, conifer logs or soil, from June to September in temperate and arctic regions, on Pacific coast also March through May and October and November, (Bigelow)

SPORE DEPOSIT white to yellow (Arora), white (Bigelow)

MICROSCOPIC spores 7-9 x 4-6 microns, elliptic, smooth, inamyloid, (Arora), spores 7-9(10) x 4-6(7) microns and up to 12 x 8 microns from 1-spored basidia, elliptic, smooth, inamyloid; basidia often 2-spored but also 1-, 3-, or 4-spored, 23-40 x 5-8.5(10) microns; cystidia not differentiated; clamp connections absent, (Bigelow)

NAME ORIGIN means "of the heath or open places"

SIMILAR Rickenella fibula, more brightly colored and on moss, if funnel is very deep consider Clitocybe epichysium

SOURCES Bigelow(9), Arora*, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Courtecuisse*, Barron*, Breitenbach(3)*(as Gerronema), Redhead(60) (as Lichenomphalia umbellifera)

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales

Fred Notzel