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) Ossicaulis lignatilis (Pers.:Fr.) Redhead & Ginns Trans. mycol. Soc. Japan 26: 362. 1985; Pleurotus lignatilis; Clitocybe lignatilis (Pers. ex Fr.) Karst

NOTES features include clitocyboid stature, chalky-white color, tough flesh, fungal to farinaceous odor, growth on wood, and white spore deposit; found at least BC, NS, ON, CA, MI, NY, OH, Czechoslovakia, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom (England), Japan, reported by Breitenbach from Switzerland

CAP 5-5.9cm, convex to pulvinate (cushion-shaped) initially, becoming flat to shallowly depressed, with inrolled to incurved edges, often becoming indented or incised, often inequilaterally expanded; often chalky-white, with or without faint rose to pale vinaceous tints on disc; dry, opaque, (Redhead), 1.5-12(24)cm, dirty whitish, later somewhat grayish, gray-brownish; with downy-floury covering, (Moser), up to 10cm, flattened, irregular, margin thin, splitting; white then grayish cream; silky scurfy, (Courtecuisse), grayish when young, later whitish with gray to ocherish tones (Breitenbach)

FLESH fleshy and tenacious, with conspicuous membranous layers under pellis and just above spore-bearing surface, occasionally water-soaked, (Redhead), tough (Courtecuisse)

GILLS adnate to adnexed or decurrent by short tooth, crowded to subcrowded, up to 3 tiers of subgills, moderately narrow (up to 0.6cm deep); white but drying yellowish white; with even or eroded edges, (Redhead), adnate, very crowded; white, when old sometimes yellowing, browning, (Moser), adnate to decurrent, narrow; pale, (Courtecuisse)

STEM 1.5-4(6)cm x 0.15-0.6cm, variable, often short and strongly curved, usually swollen in lower part, occasionally fasciculated or apparently formed unevenly, usually eccentric (off-center), often with immature fruiting bodies close by; usually chalky-white, occasionally with faint vinaceous-rose tint; with a surface similar to cap, often slightly more matted-roughened at top, otherwise like suede, white mycelial strands often noted near base, (Redhead), 1-6(18)cm x 0.2-1(6)cm, white, when old browning somewhat, (Moser), eccentric or more or less central, colored as cap, (Courtecuisse)

ODOR "strongly fungal, fleetingly farinaceous in only the freshest uncut and water-soaked specimens, farinaceous when first cut, then developing a strong fungal odor until dried", (Redhead), strong flour smell (Moser), mealy (Courtecuisse), fruity to slightly farinaceous (Breitenbach)

TASTE not distinctive to strongly fungal (Redhead), mild, slightly farinaceous (Breitenbach)

HABITAT on living or dead hardwood or sometimes conifer trunks

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Redhead)

MICROSCOPIC spores 4-6 x 3.0-3.5 microns, elliptic to broadly elliptic, smooth, inamyloid, thin-walled, with small apiculus; basidia 1-, 2-, 3-, 4-spored, small, 17-20 x 3.8-4 microns, narrowly clavate; a few irregular cheilocystidia-like elements in some specimens, pleurocystidia absent; clamp connections present (cap cuticle, basidia), (Redhead); spores 4-5.5 x 2-4.5 microns (Moser); cystidia not seen, clamps mentioned for basidia and cap cuticle (Breitenbach)

NAME ORIGIN probably refers to wood habitat, lignum = wood (Latin)

SIMILAR Lentinula species from tougher, woody fruitbodies and the gills are nearly free, (Redhead); like Clitocybe truncicola but Ossicaulis lignatilis is white from the young stages onward, fungal to farinaceous (as opposed to earthy) odor, and slightly longer spores and lacks tough flesh and coralloid hyphae in the cap cuticle; like Pleurocybella porrigens which has less prominent stem (more tongue-shaped), is white from young stages onward, prefers conifers, lacks a farinaceous odor, and has nearly round spores (as opposed to elliptic to broadly elliptic)

SOURCES Redhead(22), Moser(1) (as Clitocybe), Courtecuisse*, Breitenbach(3)* (as Clitocybe)

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales