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) Panellus serotinus (Pers. ex Fr.) Kuehner; Sarcomyxa serotina (Schrad.: Fr.) Karst.; Pleurotus serotinus (Schrad.:Fr.) Kummer; Acanthocystis serotinus (Schrad.:Fr.) Konr. & Maubl.

ENGLISH NAME(S) late oyster mushroom, late fall oyster, green oyster

NOTES recognized by viscid, greenish to yellowish or violet-tinted cap up to 10cm or 15cm in diameter, pale yellow to orange gills, short stubby stem, and growth on wood; common, found at least BC, WA, reported from OR by Kauffman and by Zeller, also found in Europe

CAP 2.5-10(15)cm, kidney- or fan-shaped, margin incurved, often lobed or wavy; "olive-green to yellow-green, ochre, greenish-brown, or with violet tones"; viscid when moist or when old, (Arora), 3-10cm, conchate, flabellate, to broadly lingulate, convex becoming indented and undulating, margin inrolled when young; light green, yellow-olive, to brown-olive or reddish-olive; smooth, strongly slimy-lubricous when moist, finely velvety when dry, appressed fibrillose-scaly, increasingly squamose (scaly) toward the stem, margin somewhat striate, (Breitenbach), olive-green or yellow, often with a flush of violet, (Phillips), dull green, yellowish green, bluish gray, or dull brown, (Ammirati)

FLESH thick, firm, with a gelatinous layer under the cuticle; white, (Arora), thick near stem, thinning out toward margin, soft, spongy; watery whitish, (Breitenbach)

GILLS adnate to decurrent, close; pale orange to ochraceous to pale yellow, often fading when old, (Arora), subdecurrent and +/- set off from stem, 50-110 reach stem, broad at cap margin, increasingly narrow toward the stem, forked; cream then cream to ocher; edges smooth and somewhat floccose, (Breitenbach), crowded, narrow; ocher-yellow to slightly violet on edges, (Phillips)

STEM "absent or if present, laterally attached, short and stubby (0.5-2.5cm long); yellow to brownish or colored like cap"; hairy or velvety, (Arora), 0.8-1.5(2)cm x 0.8-2cm, short, conic, solid; "punctate from dark scales on an ocherish to saffron-yellow background, sometimes almost strigose toward the base", (Breitenbach)

VEIL absent (Arora)

ODOR not distinctive (Bessette), pleasant, faintly mushroomy (Breitenbach)

TASTE not distinctive or bitter (Bessette), mild, somewhat bitter after being chewed for a rather long time, (Breitenbach)

EDIBILITY yes, mediocre and sometimes bitter as it ages, (Arora), no (Phillips), edible but rather tough, must be cooked a long time over low heat, (Bessette), stomach upset recorded (PNW keys)

HABITAT "scattered or in shelving groups on dead hardwood logs and branches (especially wild cherry), sometimes also on conifers", usually late in season, (Arora), solitary to clustered or imbricate on dead or living wood or hardwoods, (Breitenbach)

SPORE DEPOSIT yellowish (Arora), white (Breitenbach)

MICROSCOPIC spores 4-6 x 1-2 microns, cylindric to slightly curved (sausage-shaped), smooth, amyloid, (Arora), spores 3.7-6.5 x 1-1.5 microns, cylindric, allantoid, smooth, with droplets; basidia 4-spored, 13-20 x 2.5-3 microns, cylindric, with basal clamp; pleurocystidia sparse, like cheilocystidia, cheilocystidia numerous, 30-60 x 9-15 microns, clavate to fusiform, sometimes with yellowish contents or covered in places with an amorphous, refractive substance, (Breitenbach)

NAME ORIGIN means "late"

SIMILAR like Pleurotus ostreatus but Sarcomyxa serotina has gills which soon become yellow and a distinctly punctate-scaly yellow stem (Breitenbach); like Panus conchatus which has a +/- lilac-brownish, but never greenish cap, lateral stem, and appears earlier in the year, (Breitenbach)

SOURCES Breitenbach(3)* (as Sarcomyxa), Arora, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Ammirati*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Courtecuisse*, Bessette(2)*, Barron*, Hansen, L.(2), PNW keys, Kauffman(5) (as Pleurotus), Zeller(2) (as Pleurotus)

FAMILY Tricholomataceae of Order Agaricales