

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) *Pleurotus ostreatus* (Fr.) Kummer Fuhr. Pilz. p105. 1871

ENGLISH NAME(S) oyster mushroom

NOTES *Pleurotus ostreatus* complex is distinguished by smooth whitish to grayish to brownish caps with shelflike habit, soft thick flesh, whitish gills, and whitish to lilac spore deposit; Vilgalys(4) have divided the complex in North America into this species, *Pleurotus pulmonarius* (Fr.) Quel., and *Pleurotus populinus* O. Hilber & O.K. Miller, and this description is derived from theirs except where indicated; Thorn(3) have shown that this species as well as other *Pleurotus* and *Hohenbuehelia* species attack and consume nematodes; *P. ostreatus* complex is common in the Pacific Northwest, and includes lilac spored specimens over 15cm wide, but collections used by Vilgalys(4) are *P. pulmonarius* and *P. populinus*; collections of this species used in Vilgalys(4) analysis from ON, AL, AR, AZ, CA, DC, FL, GA, IL, MD, MN, MS, NC, NJ, NY, PA, TN, VA, WI, WV, Czechoslovakia, France and Germany

CAP (4)6-15(25)cm wide, convex, spatulate, scallop-shaped to mussel-shaped, margin inrolled becoming nearly flat when old and only slightly inrolled; whitish, yellow, pale yellow to grayish yellow, light tan to dark brown, also drab, light cinnamon drab, cinnamon drab, to light drab near margin, with some caps mostly pale cinnamon-pink; moist when young but never viscid, soon dry; finely white pubescent [downy] to pubescent over the lateral point of attachment to stem, smooth over the rest of the surface

FLESH up to 1cm or 2cm thick, firm, somewhat fibrous, solid; white

GILLS adnate to mostly decurrent, close to crowded, broad, 0.5-1.5cm, with two tiers of subgills, sometimes forming a reticulum [network] near the point of attachment; dull whitish to pale pinkish buff; edge smooth at first, becoming eroded when old

STEM (0.5)1-3cm x 0.3-2.0(3.0)cm, laterally attached, stocky, nearly equal; dry, white pubescent to strigose at base



Boleslaw Kuznik (MykoWeb)



Hannah Nadel



Michael Beug

ODOR "pleasant and anise-like, becoming fungoid and unpleasant in age"

TASTE "mild and pleasant in fresh specimens"

EDIBILITY delicious, douse in water to remove beetles between gills, remove stems, and check for white grubs (Arora for *P. ostreatus* complex)

HABITAT single, or more usually in large imbricate [shingled] clusters on the sides of stumps, logs and branches of hardwood trees, less commonly on conifers (pine and true fir), fruiting during cool weather wherever hardwood hosts are found, especially fond of riparian habitat

SPORE DEPOSIT lilac to lilac-gray, to light purplish vinaceous

MICROSCOPIC 7.5-9.5 x 3.2-4 microns, narrowly elliptic, inamyloid, colorless, thin-walled, with a small apiculus; basidia 4-spored, 24-36 x 5-7 microns, narrowly clavate, thin-walled, inamyloid, colorless; cheilocystidia and pleurocystidia infrequent to numerous, most often on gill edge, 14-30 x 3.5-8 microns, clavate-capitate, colorless, thin-walled; clamp connections present in all tissues

NAME ORIGIN means "like a group of oysters"

SIMILAR "It is difficult if not impossible to distinguish North American field collections of *P. pulmonarius* from *P. ostreatus*. However, differences in their mating behaviour, distribution, and seasonality indicate that they are distinct species", in the western states *P. pulmonarius* grows on conifers (though on hardwoods in the eastern states), (Vilgalys), caps of *P. pulmonarius* tend to be smaller and young caps are lung-shaped rather than semicircular (Petersen et al website); *Pleurotus populinus* has buff spore print, subdistant gills, longer spores, and generally grows on *Populus* and tends to be smaller; *Pleurocybella porrigens* somewhat similar but smaller, thinner, and fades from white; like *Sarcomyxa serotina* which has a yellow stem punctate with brownish scales, gills with ocher yellow colors, and cap commonly with greenish or violet tones

SOURCES Vilgalys(4), Arora* (*P. ostreatus* complex), Phillips*(*P. ostreatus* complex), Lincoff(2)*(*P. ostreatus* complex), Ammirati*(*P. ostreatus* complex), Schalkwijk-Barendsen*(*P. ostreatus* complex), Kibby*(*P. ostreatus* complex), Courtecuisse*(*P. ostreatus* complex), Bessette(2)*(*P. ostreatus* complex), Barron*(*P. ostreatus* complex), Thorn(3) (*P. ostreatus* complex), Breitenbach(3)*(*P. ostreatus* complex), Ronald H. Petersen et al. Mycology Lab at the University of Tennessee, <http://fp.bio.utk.edu/mycology/default.htm> accessed Mar. 21, 2003

FAMILY Pleurotaceae of Order Agaricales



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