

## 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 populinus* O. Hilber & O.K. Miller in Vilgalys, A.Smith, B.L.Sun, & O.K.Miller Can.J.Bot. 71: 127. 1993

**NOTES** a member of the *Pleurotus ostreatus* complex, and best recognized within it by its whitish to buff spore print, light colored cap, subdistant gills, and larger spores (up to 15 microns long); collections used in Vilgalys(4) analysis came from BC, ID, and also ON, CO, MD, MI, MT, NY, WI, distribution "similar to that of its aspen host, occurring in most northern states in the east, and throughout the montane and northern regions of western United States", (Vilgalys)

**CAP** 4-6(9)cm wide, convex, oyster-shell-shaped to fan-shaped, the margin inrolled at first; pinkish gray to ivory white; dry, smooth, pubescent [downy] over the lateral point of attachment

**GILLS** decurrent over the short point of attachment, subdistant, 2 tiers of subgills, broad, 0.5-1.0cm broad; nearly white to cream

**STEM** 1.0-1.5cm x 0.6-1.0cm, "lateral, equal or tapering to a narrow base, white lamellae extending almost to the base that is covered with a white pubescence"

**ODOR** "not distinctive to anise-like"

**TASTE** "mild and pleasant"

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

**HABITAT** single to numerous and often imbricate [shingled] "on limbs, stumps, or logs of hardwood trees, especially black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) and aspen (*Populus tremuloides* and *Populus tridentata*)", collections were mostly in May to July but also in October

**SPORE DEPOSIT** buff-colored, not lilac

**MICROSCOPIC** spores (8)9-12(15) x 3-5 microns, narrowly elliptic, smooth, inamyloid, colorless, thin-walled, with small apiculus; basidia 4-spored, 23-27 x 5-6 microns, narrowly clavate, colorless, thin-walled; cheilocystidia 19-38 x 4-7 microns, "fusiform, ventricose-rostrate, capitulate, tibiiform to lecythiform, sometimes with an elongate hyphal extension at the apex", colorless, thin-walled, pleurocystidia rare to numerous, 31-33 x 4.6-7.5 microns, capitulate, inamyloid, colorless, thin-walled; clamps present in all tissues

**NAME ORIGIN** means 'pertaining to *Populus*'

**SIMILAR** *P. ostreatus* has lilac spore deposit and tends to be larger, and *P. pulmonarius* may have lilac spore deposit, both have close to crowded gills and shorter spores; *P. populinus* usually lacks the strong brown colors that sometimes characterize *P. ostreatus* and *P. pulmonarius*, both of which may however be found on *Populus*; *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)

**FAMILY** Pleurotaceae of Order Agaricales