

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 pulmonarius* (Fr.) Quel. Champ. Jura et Vosges 1: 113. 1872

NOTES member of *Pleurotus ostreatus* complex (see *Pleurotus ostreatus* and SIMILAR); collections used in Vilgalys(4) analysis came from BC, ID, and also AZ, CA, MD, MI, MN, MT, NC, NH, NY, PA, TN, VA, WI, Germany, Sweden

CAP 2.5-9cm, spatulate, oval to conch-shaped, nearly flat when old, margin recurved [curved back] to nearly straight when old; white to grayish white, pinkish brown or light orange brown often with a hint of gray, light brown or brown; dry, dull, bald, "often with shallow surface indentations near the margin and point of attachment"

FLESH firm, sometimes water-soaked near the cap skin; dull white, "not changing upon bruising or cutting"

GILLS short decurrent to decurrent, close to crowded, with 2 tiers of subgills, moderately broad, 0.5-1.0cm broad, often anastomosing and intervenose along stem; white to slightly cream color when old

STEM 1-2cm x "8-8 mm wide", lateral to subcentral; white; "surface covered with irregular shallow ridges that are sometimes intervenose to almost poroid and reticulate", extending from the gills, densely hispid [bristly] to pubescent [downy] over the base at the point of attachment

ODOR "pleasant, with a vague anise-like aroma when fresh"

TASTE "mild at first and pleasant, becoming strongly fungal and eventually putrescent"

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

HABITAT in imbricate [shingled] clusters, rarely single, on logs, limbs and stumps of conifers at mid-level elevations (1200-3000 m) in the western US, of hardwoods (primarily) in the eastern states

SPORE DEPOSIT "variable, white, yellowish, buff to lavender gray when heavy"

MICROSCOPIC spores 7.5-10(11) x 2.8-4(4.5) microns, narrowly elliptic, inamyloid, colorless, thin-walled; basidia 4-spored, 20-27 x 6-8 microns, narrowly clavate, colorless, thin-walled; cheilocystidia 26-37 x (4)5-7.5 microns, capitate to fusiform, colorless, thin-walled, often with a basal clamp connection, pleurocystidia similar to cheilocystidia, from numerous to very scarce

NAME ORIGIN means 'of the lungs' probably referring to the shape when young

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), while *P. ostreatus* grows mostly on hardwoods, (Vilgalys); *Pleurotus ostreatus* also tends to be larger; *Pleurotus populinus* has buff spore print, subdistant gills, longer spores, and generally grows 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 other yellow colors, and cap commonly with greenish or violet tones

SOURCES Vilgalys(4)

FAMILY Pleurotaceae of Order Agaricales