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) Polyozellus multiplex (Underwood) Murrill North American Flora 9: 171

ENGLISH NAME(S) blue chanterelle, clustered blue chanterelle

NOTES not a true gilled mushroom, but has vein-like radiating ridges on spore bearing surface; distinguished as a blue to purple mushroom with many fan-shaped to spoon-shaped caps with veined undersides; Smith examined collections from BC, WA, OR, CHEMICAL REACTIONS cap tissue stains olive-black in KOH, (Arora), flesh dark blackish green to olivaceous when treated with KOH, (Smith)

CAP 2-10cm, "spoon-shaped to fan-shaped, often centrally depressed and lop-sided", margin irregularly lobed or wavy; usually in compact clusters 5-15cm high and up to 100cm broad (usually smaller); dull purple to purple-gray to black, deep blue or frosted blue, (Arora), 6-15cm high and up to 1 meter in diameter, consisting of a mass of small to moderately large fanshaped to spathulate caps 2-5cm x 3-10cm x 0.1-0.3cm, in robust fruiting bodies at times funnel-shaped, the margin incurved when young, at times wavy or lobed; glaucous violaceous by soon violaceous black or when old somewhat lead-colored, the margin pale glaucous violet to whitish; indistinctly zoned with alternate zones of tomentum, or merely unpolished and somewhat roughened, the margin usually pubescent at first, (Smith)

FLESH soft, brittle; deep violet to bluish-black, (Arora), soft, watery, brittle; dark violet black, azonate, (Smith)

GILLS smooth or more often with crowded shallow wrinkles or veins or almost pore-like, without gills; colored more or less like cap or paler, (Arora), radiating folds or ridges, the ridges frequently forking or anastomosing or at times giving rise to an almost poroid surface, merely tuberculate or slightly wrinkled where decurrent on stem, nearly smooth near cap margin; glaucous violaceous at first, in oldest part tinged "cinnamon buff", (Smith)

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STEM 2-5cm x 0.5-2cm, central to off-center or lateral, solid or becoming hollow; often fused with other stems at base; colored more or less as cap or underside; often grooved, (Arora), 3-5cm x 1.0-2.0cm, variously grown together near base or apex or fused in mid-portion, often irregularly compound, solid, fibrous, brittle; dark violaceous black; slightly roughened and upper part covered by decurrent spore-bearing surface, (Smith)

ODOR mild or fragrant (Arora), faintly pungent, (Smith), aromatic (Lincoff(2))

TASTE mild (Smith)

EDIBILITY edible, and delicious according to some sources, (Arora)

HABITAT clustered under conifers (usually spruce or fir) or aspen, (Arora), in great clusters or compound clusters on humus under conifers, (Smith); especially at high elevations

SPORE DEPOSIT white (Arora, Smith)

MICROSCOPIC spores (4)6-8.5 x 5.5-8 microns, round to broadly elliptic, warted or appearing angular, (Arora), 4-6 x 4-6 microns, broadly elliptic to spherical in outline, tuberculate to angular-tuberculate, colorless to faintly yellowish in iodine (inamyloid); basidia 4-spored, 32-38 x 5-6 microns, faintly olivaceous in KOH, yellowish in iodine; cystidia imbedded and in the form of narrow somewhat contorted filaments 28-40 x 3-4 microns, flesh of interwoven non-gelatinous hyphae with a dark bluish black incrusting pigment on the walls which dissolves into a green solution in KOH; clamp connections present on basidia, (Smith)

NAME ORIGIN means 'manifold'

SIMILAR like Gomphus clavatus which is larger, grows in smaller clusters, soon becomes brownish, does not stain olive-black with KOH, and has ochre spore print

SOURCES Smith(11) (as Cantharellus multiplex), Arora*, Ammirati*, Lincoff(2)*, Kibby*, Barron*

FAMILY Thelephoraceae of Order Thelephorales