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.

Click for further information about MMPNW

Many illustrations need confirmation. Do not use this information to determine edibility.

I have read and agreed to the disclaimer and copyright information.

LATIN NAME(S) Psilocybe crobula (Fr.) Lange ex Singer Sydowia 15: 69. 1961; Geophila crobula (Fr.) Kuehner & Romagnesi

NOTES features include hygrophanous dingy brown viscid peelable striate cap, gills that are pallid then rust-brown with white edges, cap-colored stem with deeper colored base, ring zone and fibrillose patches, growth on twigs and other wood debris, or on grass stems or rotten dung, grayish chocolate brown spore deposit, and microscopic characters; found at least BC (Paul Kroeger, pers. comm.), WA, also MA, MI, TN, Greenland, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, USSR, (Guzman)

CAP 0.4-4cm, convex to broadly convex, expanding to nearly flat with maturity; hygrophanous, dingy brown, fading to yellowish brown; smooth, translucent-striate, viscid when wet from a separable gelatinous pellicle (cap skin), often adorned with fragile veil remnants soon disappearing, (Stamets), 0.5-1.5(2.5)cm, convex to somewhat umbonate to somewhat flat; strongly hygrophanous, umber brown, yellowish brown, orangish brown, or brownish, fading to yellowish tawny, beige or honey yellow; viscid to subviscid, with separable cuticle (cap skin), bald, but in young stages margin covered with floccose, somewhat squarrose white squamules (fine scales) from the veil, sometimes as short appendages when naked and shining, even but slightly striate when moist, (Guzman)

FLESH pliant, thin in cap, somewhat fibrous in stem; pale in cap, deep brown in stem, unchanging, (Guzman)

GILLS adnate; clay to dull rust, with whitish edges, (Stamets), broadly adnate to sinuate or short subdecurrent; reddish brown or brownish to grayish brown or violet brown, with whitish edges; edge fimbriate (fringed) and somewhat floccose, (Guzman)

Paul Kroeger

STEM 0.5-1.2cm x 0.1-0.4cm, concolorous with cap, more dark reddish-brown near base and lighter above an annular zone; adorned with distinct fibrillose patches, (Stamets), 1.4-3.0(3.5)cm x 0.1-0.15(0.2)cm, equal, swollen at base, flexuous (bent both ways), hollow; colored as cap or paler at top, much deeper colored at base; dry, somewhat floccose, mottled or banded with white fibrillose squamules from veil, (Guzman)

VEIL cortinate, (Stamets), well developed as cortinate, fleeting and leaving on young cap margin silky appressed white fibrils which often agglutinate on the stem to form a floccose subannulus usually obliterated when mature, (Guzman)

ODOR unremarkable (Guzman)

TASTE unremarkable (Guzman)

EDIBILITY Phillips says active, but analyses have not found psilocybin or psilocin, (Stamets)

HABITAT on twigs and other wood debris in fall, not on grass (but see Guzman below), (Stamets), solitary or gregarious on grass stems or rhizomes, rotten twigs, or logs, or other herbaceous debris, or on sawdust, or on old or rotten dung, in grasslands or , more often, in open hardwood forests, rarely in coniferous forests or subalpine zones, also rare in arctic zones; fruiting in summer, (Guzman)

SPORE DEPOSIT grayish chocolate brown or bister-sepia (Guzman)

MICROSCOPIC spores 6-8 x 3.5-5 micron, somewhat elliptic, thin-walled pleurocystidia absent, cheilocystidia 25-45 microns long, lageniform to sublageniform, (Stamets), spores (5)5.5-6.6(7.7) x (4)4.8-5.4 x 3.3-4.8 microns, subrhomboid in face view, subelliptic in side view, pale brownish yellow, broad flat germ pore, more or less thick-walled 0.5 microns, some irregular spores observed (heart-shaped, or with 2 pores); basidia 4-spored, 18-20 x 5-6 microns, subventricose, colorless; pleurocystidia absent, cheilocystidia abundant, forming a sterile band, 25-45 x 3-6 microns, somewhat lageniform, with long filiform apex or neck 1.6-2.5 microns in diameter, colorless; clamp connections present, (Guzman)

NAME ORIGIN derived from Greek and means a braid of hair gathered into a knot on the crown of the head, referring to scales on cap

SIMILAR inquilina which differs by growing attached to rotting grass (Stamets), but according to Guzman habitat the same but has larger spores, (6.6)7.7-8.8(10) x 4.5-5.5(6.6) x 3.8-4.4 microns, and smaller cheilocystidia (15)18-38 x 5-8 microns; shares similarities with laticystis, subborealis, atrobrunnea, washingtonensis

SOURCES Stamets*, Guzman, Courtecuisse*

FAMILY Strophariaceae of Order Agaricales