

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) *Psilocybe montana* (Pers. ex Fr.) Kummer Fuhr. Pilzk. p.71. 1871; *Psilocybe atrorufa* (Schaeff. ex Fr.) Quelet; *Psilocybe lateritia* (Murrill) Smith

ENGLISH NAME(S) mountain moss *Psilocybe*

NOTES features include hygrophanous dark brown to dark reddish brown to ochraceous viscid peelable striate cap, adnate to somewhat decurrent distant gills that are light gray brown to very dark reddish brown to violet brown, smooth or somewhat fibrillose stem that is whitish or pale reddish brown or cap-colored, growth in moss, purple brown to dark grayish brown spore deposit, and microscopic characters; WA, OR, ID, (Stamets), frequent on foray lists from BC, generally common, examined from AK, AZ, ID, MI, NH, NY, OR, TN, WA, Greenland, Mexico, Jamaica, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USSR, and reported from Norway, northern Africa and Australia, (Guzman), also Czech Republic, Slovakia, Japan, (Stamets), **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** KOH stains cap brownish black (Guzman)

CAP 0.5-2cm, hemispheric at first, rapidly expanding to convex to broadly convex to flat when old, and may be slightly umbonate; hygrophanous, dark reddish brown to ochraceous, drying light yellowish brown to grayish brown; surface smooth, viscid when wet from a separable gelatinous pellicle, margin translucent striate when moist, (Stamets), (0.4)0.8-1.2(2.0)cm, hemispherical to convex or sometimes slightly umbonate or somewhat bellshaped, to more or less flat; hygrophanous, dark brown or dark reddish brown to ochraceous, yellowish brown or beige when faded; viscid, with separable pellicle when moist and young, bald, margin with or without veil remnants, as floccose fibrils, transparent striate when moist, (Guzman), 0.5-2.5cm (Phillips)

FLESH thin; whitish and somewhat pliant in cap, brownish in stem, (Guzman)



Michael Beug



Paul Kroeger

GILLS adnate to subdecurrent, distant, narrow to moderately broad; light gray brown to very dark reddish brown to violet brown with spore maturity, (Stamets), broadly adnate, sometimes subdecurrent; pale gray brown to dark violaceous brown, with paler or whitish edges, (Guzman)

STEM 1.5-4.0(5.0)cm x 0.1-0.2cm, mostly equal to slightly enlarged at base, often flexuous (bent alternately in opposite directions); reddish brown or nearly colored as cap; dry, smooth or having a few scattered fibrils, (Stamets), 1.6-2.5(5.0)cm x (0.05)0.1-0.15(0.2)cm, equal, hollow, somewhat flexuous (bent both ways); whitish or pale reddish brown to colored as cap or reddish brown toward base, apex paler; "somewhat fibrillose, glabrous, but at first with very minute white appressed fibrillose patches from the veil", (Guzman)

VEIL partial veil thinly cortinate, soon obscured, (Stamets), rudimentary, whitish to pale brownish from spores, floccose fibrillose, remains at cap margin and top of stem, but not forming ring, (Guzman)

ODOR none or slightly fungal, (Guzman), not distinctive (Phillips)

TASTE none or slightly fungal, (Guzman), not distinctive (Phillips)

EDIBILITY no (Phillips)

HABITAT scattered to numerous, in mossy ground, less common on sandy soils, especially at higher elevations, (may be obligate saprophyte on dead root masses), (Stamets), "gregarious, rarely solitary on soil or sandy soil, always covered by mosses or dense bryophyte mats (especially Polytrichum, not Sphagnum), in open forests, roadsides, tracks, banks of rivulets, fire places, of coniferous or deciduous trees of along the margin of pasture-lands", (Guzman)

SPORE DEPOSIT dark grayish brown (Stamets), dark gray brown (Guzman), purple brown (Phillips)

MICROSCOPIC spores 5.5-8(10) x 4-5 microns, subrhomboid (more or less rhomboid) in face view and subelliptic (more or less elliptic) in side view, thick walled, (Stamets), basidia 4-spored, pleurocystidia absent, cheilocystidia ventricose (wider in middle)

NAME ORIGIN means 'pertaining to mountains'

SIMILAR like *Crobolella* and *Inquilina* but among other differences, habitat is different; like *Physaloides* which is striate only 1/3 to 1/2 the distance to the center (instead of striate to the center) and has different habitat

SOURCES Stamets*, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Courtecuisse*, Guzman, Breitenbach(4)*

FAMILY Strophariaceae of Order Agaricales