

## 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 pelliculosa* (Smith) Singer & Smith  
*Mycologia* 50: 280. 1958.

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** conifer *Psilocybe*

**NOTES** features include viscid peelable striate cap that is chestnut brown drying dark dingy yellow to pale yellow often with pallid marginal band and frequently olive green in patches, cap bruising blue, adnate to adnexed close gills that are dull cinnamon-brown becoming purple-brown, whitish to pallid to grayish to brownish stem covered with patches of grayish fibrils and blue-green where bruised or when old, farinaceous odor and taste, growth on well-decayed conifer substrate, in mulch, or in soil rich in lignin, purple-brown spore deposit, and microscopic characters; collections examined for BC, WA, OR, ID, also CA, MI, Finland, (Guzman)

**CAP** 0.5-2(3)cm, conical to bell-shaped, margin generally not incurved in young specimens; hygrophanous, chestnut brown when moist drying dark dingy yellow to pale yellow, often with a pallid band along the margin, frequently tinged olive green in patches; smooth, viscid when moist from a separable gelatinous pellicle, margin translucent-striate, (Stamets), (0.5)1.0-1.5(3.0)cm, obtusely conic to convex or conic-bellshaped or somewhat umbonate, sometimes slightly papillate, never fully expanding; hygrophanous, reddish brown or brownish orange, fading to dull alutaceous or pale yellowish brown, sometimes whitish to yellowish or cream color, often with greenish blue tints when old; viscid, with separable gelatinous pellicle, bald or irregularly covered at first with white floccose veil scales, with small white marginal appendages from veil when young, margin translucent-striate when moist, (Guzman)

**FLESH** thin, pliant, colored more or less as cap, (Stamets), thin and pliant in cap, somewhat tough in stem; whitish, in stem reddish brown, in cap and stem blueing slightly when cut, (Guzman)



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**GILLS** adnate to adnexed, finally separating, close, narrow to moderately broad; dull cinnamon-brown, then darkening to purple-brown, (Stamets), adnate to adnexed, eventually seceding, close; whitish when young to cinnamon brown or violaceous brown, with whitish edges, (Guzman)

**STEM** 6-8cm x 0.1-0.25cm, equal above, slightly enlarged at base, in stem stuffed with a tough pith; whitish to pallid to grayish, more brownish toward base, covered with patches of small grayish fibers, blue-green where bruised or with age, especially at base; pruinose at top, (Stamets); (2.0)4.0-5.0(10.0)cm x (0.1)0.15-0.25(0.4)cm, equal or with enlarged or somewhat bulbous base, stuffed to hollow, straight or more often flexuous (bent both ways); whitish to yellowish or grayish brownish or pale reddish brown, becoming bister when old; pruinose in upper part, mottled or covered by appressed white silky fibrils from veil, (Stamets)

**VEIL** partial veil thin to obscure or absent, (Stamets), well formed as white arachnoid (webby) coating in young stages, but not forming ring, soon disappearing except for fibrils or scales on both cap and stem, (Guzman)

**ODOR** farinaceous mainly when young and fresh (Guzman)

**TASTE** farinaceous mainly when young and fresh (Guzman)

**EDIBILITY** less potent than semilanceata and cyanescens, up to 0.4% psilocybin, no psilocin, and 0.04% baeocystin, (Stamets)

**HABITAT** scattered to gregarious to cespitose (tufted) on well-decayed conifer substrate, in mulch, or in soil rich in lignin, often "along paths in conifer forests and along abandoned logging roads that are being recaptured by alders and firs", (Stamets); scattered to gregarious or cespitose on humus, in trails or clearing of conifer forests, predominantly along forest edge, sometimes on bark mulch beds or different debris in gardens below shrubs, uncommon in grasslands, (Guzman)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** purplish brown (Stamets), purplish brown or dark violaceous brown (Guzman)

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 9-13 x 5-7 microns, subelliptic (more or less elliptic) to subovoid (more or less oval), (Stamets); basidia 4-spored, pleurocystidia absent, cheilocystidia 17-36 x 4-7.5 microns, fusiform (spindle-shaped) to lance-shaped, with an elon

**NAME ORIGIN** refers to removable gelatinous pellicle of cap

**SIMILAR** (nearly identical to) silvatica and distinguished from it by length of spores; like semilanceata but not as narrowly conical, more tendency to bruise or age blue-green and under conifers rather than grass; like *Hypholoma dispersum* especially from a distance

**SOURCES** Stamets\*, Guzman, Lincoff(2)\*, Ammirati(11)\*

**FAMILY** Strophariaceae of Order Agaricales



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