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 stuntzii Guzman & Ott Mycologia 68: 1261. 1976; Psilocybe pugetensis Harris

ENGLISH NAME(S) Stuntz's blue-legs, Stuntz's Psilocybe, blue-ringers

NOTES features include hygrophanous viscid peelable striate cap that is deep olive-brown to chestnut-brown when young but often fades to yellow-brown or yellowish-buff, thin membranous ring on yellowish to brown stem, weak blueing reaction which when present may affect cap, ring or stem, farinaceous odor and taste, and dark purplish grayish brown spore deposit; Guzman examined collections from BC, WA, OR, CA, CHEMICAL REACTIONS KOH staining cap and flesh reddish brown, negative or rose on stem or when young, (Guzman)

CAP 1-4(5)cm, bluntly conical becoming convex to broadly umbonate, flat or with an uplifted margin when old; deep olive-brown to chestnut-brown when young, often fading as it ages or dries to dingy yellow-brown or yellowish-buff, margin often tinged gree

FLESH thin; pallid to brownish, bruises blue weakly if at all, (Arora), "translucent to somewhat pliant" in cap, tough in stem; whitish or light to dark yellowish brown, staining blue when cut mainly in young stages, (Guzman), relatively thin; watery brown or nearly colored as cap, (Stamets)

GILLS adnate or adnexed, close or fairly well-spaced; pallid soon becoming grayish or brownish, (Arora), adnate or sinuate or adnexed; "yellowish brown at first, soon violet brown or chocolate brown to blackish violet, uniform or somewhat mottled, with whitish edges", (Guzman), adnate to adnexed, close to subdistant, moderately broad, with 3 tiers of sub gills; "pallid, soon becoming more brownish and eventually very dark brown", (Stamets)

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Ben Woo

Ben Woo

STEM 2-6cm x 0.15-0.4cm, equal or thicker at either end, often curved; "yellowish to brown or sometimes with darker or bluish stains", especially in lower part; "not viscid, often with mycelial threads at base", (Arora), (2)3.5-6.5(7.5)cm x (0.15)0.2-0.4(0.6)cm, equal or slightly enlarged at base, twisted striate at times, flexuous (bent both ways), stuffed to hollow; "white or whitish silky to ochraceous or brownish fibrillose", easily staining blue-green where injured or touched, mainly on base, which is finally blackish; dry, bald to slightly fibrillose, (Guzman), 3-6cm x 0.2-0.4cm, more or less equal, "slightly enlarged at top and often curved, twisted and inflated at base", stuffed with fibrous whitish pith; dingy yellow to pale yellowish brown; dry, covered with pallid appressed fibrils below ring, smooth above ring, (Stamets)

VEIL membranous but thin, forming a fragile ring or fibrillose zone on stem which is often blue or bluish green but may darken from spores or disappear, (Arora), white thin membrane forming a ring, fragile and persistent, rarely absent, thin, white, smooth on lower surface but slightly striate on upper surface, with somewhat gelatinous margin, easily blueing along margin, (Guzman), partial veil thinly membranous, typically streaked bluish, leaving fragile membranous ring which soon becomes an annular zone darkened by spores, (Stamets)

ODOR strongly farinaceous when young, but weak when mature, (Guzman)

TASTE strongly farinaceous when young, but weak when mature, (Guzman)

EDIBILITY weakly to moderately active, 0-0.36% psilocybin, 0-0.12% psilocin, 0.02% baeocystin, (Stamets)

HABITAT "scattered to densely gregarious or clustered on wood chips, mulch etc., in lawns, gardens, and landscaped areas; also under conifers and in fields", (Arora), scattered to gregarious in dense clusters, rarely solitary, on soil or on small plant fragments such as bark residues, or on bark mulch of conifers, or on well decomposed manure, in grasses, gardens or lawns in cities, rarely in grassland or meadows, (Guzman), in gregarious or subcespitose (somewhat tufted) clusters on conifer wood chips, in soils rich with woody debris, in newly placed lawns and fields, along roads, paths, in gardens, mostly fall to early winter, to a minor degree in spring, especially within 90km of coastal regions in BC, WA, OR, (Stamets)

SPORE DEPOSIT dark purple brown (Arora), deep violaceous to dark violaceous purple, (Guzman), dark purplish grayish brown, (Stamets)

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MICROSCOPIC spores 8-12 x 6-8 microns, elliptic, smooth chrysocystidia absent on gills, (Arora), spores (8.2)9.3-10.4(13.5) x 6-7.1(7.7) x 5.5-6.6 microns, somewhat rhomboid in face view, somewhat elliptic in side view, broad germ pore, thick walled, di

NAME ORIGIN after Dr. Daniel Stuntz who collected type

SIMILAR like Galerina autumnalis in appearance if you disregard color

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

FAMILY Strophariaceae of Order Agaricales