

## 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)** *Russula brunneoviolacea* Crawshay Spore Orn.  
Russ.: 90. 1930

**NOTES** characterized by small size, purple and brown dry cap with separable cap skin, mild taste, white stem with pinkish flushes which bruises or ages yellow, preference for hardwoods especially oak, and yellow spore deposit; not common, according to Shaffer, reported from North America (from MD) only once before his 1970 MI records, but included in Pacific Northwest keys, and reported by Grund as a provisional new variety *roseolipes*, Thiers gives *brunneoviolacea* for CA, **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** cap flesh reactions: 10% FeSO<sub>4</sub> grayish yellowish pink, 2% phenol dark grayish reddish brown, formalin pale yellowish pink, guaiac slowly dark grayish green, SV almost colorless, (Shaffer), FeSO<sub>4</sub> buff, tan, or flesh color reaction with cap flesh, SV purplish reaction with cap flesh, (Grund)

**CAP** 3-7cm, livid violet, livid purple or dark purple red, sometimes browner or paler in center, or with yellowish patches, margin striate when old, cuticle separable, (PNW keys), 5-8cm, at first spherical, fragile when expanded; at first violet-black,

**FLESH** brittle; white, (PNW keys), white, the surface beneath the cuticle is white or of a faint sulphur-yellow tint, (Crawshay), brittle; white, (Phillips), slightly yellowing where damaged (Courtecuisse), 0.4-0.55cm thick at mid-radius, soft-brittle; tinged cap color just below surface, otherwise off-white, staining pale orange yellow to grayish yellow in places when cut, (Shaffer)



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**GILLS** cream (PNW keys), free; white, finally cream faintly yellow-tinted, (Crawshay), subdistant; cream, (Phillips), pale cream (Courtecuisse), adnexed, at times almost free, subdistant, equal, or unequal with subgills rare and approaching stem closely, 0.5-0.7cm broad, somewhat rounded near cap margin, fragile-brittle, occasionally forked at or near stem, intervenose; pale yellow, at times spotted-stained yellowish brown, but unchanging where bruised; entire, (Shaffer)

**STEM** often long; white, staining pale-yellow where rubbed, (PNW keys), often long, and inclined to curve beneath the leaves on the ground, fragile, at first firm, finally soft; white, staining pale sulphur-yellow where rubbed, (Crawshay), 3.5-6cm x 1.0-1.5cm, equal, white staining slightly yellowish brown at base, (Phillips), up to 6cm x 1.5cm, spindle-shaped, fragile, more or less unchanging (Courtecuisse), 3.5-5.5cm x 1.3-1.5cm, flared at top, otherwise more or less equal or enlarging to base, stuffed; yellowish white, staining slightly grayish yellow when bruised and when old, sometimes spotted-stained yellowish brown basally; dry, dull, bald, longitudinally wrinkled, (Shaffer)

**VEIL** none

**ODOR** none (Crawshay), pleasant (Phillips), with a slight fruity odor (Shaffer)

**TASTE** mild (Crawshay, Phillips), none (Shaffer)

**EDIBILITY** yes (Phillips)

**HABITAT** oaks (PNW keys), restricted entirely to the vicinity of oak trees, (Crawshay), in mixed woods (Phillips), under hardwoods, (Courtecuisse), deciduous trees especially oak, (Rayner), on humus in deciduous woods, (Shaffer)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** yellow, Crawshay C-E, (PNW keys), pale orange-yellow (Phillips), Crawshay C-E (Rayner), pale orange yellow, between IIb and IIc, (Shaffer)

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 7-9 x 6-7.5 microns, ornamentation Patterson type B-3, (PNW keys), spores average 9.5 x 8.5 microns, very conspicuous protuberances which are rather above the usual size, in a certain number of spores the protuberances are unconnected

**NAME ORIGIN** means brown-violet

**SIMILAR** like *puellaris* Fr. which is rare in boggy woods of alder and birch, common under conifers, with strongly yellowish flesh as well as stem

**SOURCES** Crawshay, Phillips\*, Courtecuisse\*, Shaffer(1), Rayner, PNW keys, Grund(2), Thiers(3)

**FAMILY** Russulaceae of Order Russulales