

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) *Stagnicola perplexa* (Orton) Redhead & Smith
Can. J. Bot. 64: 645. 1986; *Phaeocollybia perplexa* Orton

NOTES features include conic to umbonate moist to lubricous striate cap that is brown on disc and orange-brown to yellowish toward margin, close gills that are pallid olivaceous gray to honey-colored or cinnamon, horny stem that is reddish brown to black at base and paler toward top, bitter taste, growth on rotting plant remains or woody debris, "avellaneous" to "deep olive buff" spore deposit, and microscopic characters; found at least BC, WA, ID, uncommon, recorded from OR according to Lorelei Norvell (pers. comm.) and Castellano(2), also NF, ON, MI, United Kingdom (Scotland),
CHEMICAL REACTIONS FeSO₄ gives flesh an olivaceous color

CAP 0.4-2.5cm, conic with incurved margin at first, becoming bellshaped to convex with prominent small umbo; brown on disc, orange-brown to yellowish toward margin, moist to lubricous, translucent striate at margin when moist, silky when faded

FLESH thin; colored as cap

GILLS narrowly adnate to narrowly adnexed, often seceding, close, 1-3 tiers of subgills, wider in middle; pallid olivaceous gray to honey-colored or cinnamon

STEM 1.5-4.5cm x 0.09-2.0cm, (photographs do not show a thick stem), often tapered toward base and often curved, horny; reddish brown to black at base and paler toward top; bald, dull or with a luster, basal ochreous mycelium

ODOR not distinctive

TASTE slightly to intensely bitter

HABITAT gregarious on rotting plant remains (needles, leaves, twigs, bits of wood) in bogs, ditches and in drying temporary pools in coniferous forests

SPORE DEPOSIT "avellaneous" to "deep olive buff" (milky-coffee or pale avellaneous according to Orton)



Paul Kroeger

MICROSCOPIC spores 4.9-6.0(6.4) x 3-3.8(4.5) microns, elliptic to vaguely kidney-shaped, smooth, often with 1 or 2 droplets, nearly colorless to faintly yellowish in KOH, not reacting in Melzer's, lacking germ pore, walls refractive, only slightly thickened; basidia 4-spored, 15.5-21 x 4.8-5.2 microns, clavate, clamped, colorless to faintly yellowish; pleurocystidia lacking or present only the gill edge and similar to cheilocystidia, cheilocystidia abundant, but not always forming sterile margin, 25-54 x 5-7 microns, cylindrical to narrowly fusoid, sometimes forked or septate once, thin-walled, colorless, occasionally with a few aggregated refractive droplets; clamps mentioned for basidia, stem hyphae, and basal mycelium

NAME ORIGIN means 'intricate', assigned by Orton to species as *Phaeocollybia* with unusual microscopic features

SIMILAR like *Phaeocollybias* in appearance, but stem not rooting; like *Mythicomyces corneipes* which has rough spores which are "benzo-brown" rather than milky-coffee in deposit, as well as microscopic differences in cystidia

SOURCES Redhead(14)

FAMILY Cortinariaceae of Order Agaricales