

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) *Stropharia aeruginosa* (Curt. ex Fr.) Quelet;
Psilocybe aeruginosa

ENGLISH NAME(S) blue-green *Stropharia*

NOTES identified by viscid greenish to blue-green or yellow-green cap and gray to chocolate-brown or blackish brown spores; Noordeloos in 1995 transferred this species to *Psilocybe* along with *cyanea* and *pseudocyanea*; Breitenbach & Kranzlin give distribution as North America, Europe, Asia, North Africa

CAP 2-6(8)cm, broadly bell-shaped to convex becoming broadly umbonate or nearly flat; bright green to blue-green when fresh, developing yellow tones when old; viscid or slimy when moist from separable pellicle, smooth or with a few whitish scales near margin or remnants hanging from it

FLESH thin but thicker towards center, soft; white or tinged blue

GILLS typically more or less adnate (but may secede), broad, fairly close; at first pallid but soon grayish, finally purple-brown or chocolate-brown, white edges

STEM 3-8cm x 0.3-0.8(1.2)cm, more or less equal, flared toward top and swelled at base; colored like cap or paler below, pallid above ring; often slightly viscid when moist, smooth above ring, usually with small cottony scales below ring

VEIL membranous, white, soft, forming a fragile, superior ring which is whitish above and bluish-green below, often disappears when old

ODOR not distinctive

TASTE not distinctive

EDIBILITY sometimes reported as poisonous, one analysis showed no psilocybin or psilocin, in Europe thought to be edible

HABITAT solitary or in small groups in rich soil, humus, woody debris, gardens, parks, in grass at edges of woodlands, in Pacific Northwest under conifers

SPORE DEPOSIT dark purple-brown to purple-black



Michael Beug



Paul Kroeger

MICROSCOPIC spores 7.5-9 x 4.5-5 microns, elliptic, smooth, thick-walled with a central germ pore; chrysocystidia present on gills, pleurocystidia 40-60 x 10-15 microns, mucronate (tipped with an abrupt short point), clavate, cheilocystidia 40-55 x 10-12.5 microns, flask-shaped-capitate and bluntly capitate; clamp connections mentioned for cap cuticle and basidia

NAME ORIGIN means "copper-green", note Stamets says transferred to *Psilocybe* along with *cyanea* and *pseudocyanea*

SIMILAR *pseudocyanea* which has a paler (whitish to yellowish) cap and stem tinged variously with blue or blue green; similar to and long confused with *cyanea* which is more rapidly discoloring, with paler gills, and generally smaller, whereas *aeruginosa* is more strongly colored blue-green and has a copious white veil leaving scales on cap surface, well-formed ring and white then darker purple-brown gills; like *Pholiota subcaerulea* which has a bluish cap (when fresh) and paler (cinnamon-brown) spores and mature gills

SOURCES Arora*, Phillips*, Lincoff(2)*, Lincoff(1)*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen*, Kibby*, Stamets*, Courtecuisse*, Barron*, Breitenbach(4)*

FAMILY Strophariaceae of Order Agaricales