

# What to do if you find it:

## Make an observation

The first thing to do is to **record your observation**. We prefer to use the iNaturalist app for that (visit [www.iNaturalist.org](http://www.iNaturalist.org) to learn more), but you could also upload your observation to Mushroom Observer (visit [www.MushroomObserver.org](http://www.MushroomObserver.org)). The QR code to the right will take you to the Fungal Diversity Survey (FunDiS for short) website to explain how to contribute to the project.



[fundis.org/protect/take-action](http://fundis.org/protect/take-action)

The best thing you can do is take *lots* of photographs and notes. Typically, smartphones will automatically georeference any photos taken, but it is good practice to note your exact location, preferably with GPS coordinates, and what trees or other habitat features are nearby. For example, was the mushroom growing from duff and humus, or from bare soil? Did it have a particular texture or smell?

## Collect a specimen

If you are in an area where it is allowed and have any necessary permits, **we strongly urge you to create a vouchered collection**. This means a dried specimen for deposit in a herbarium, where researchers can access it for things like DNA sequencing. If you don't know how to do this, please see:

[fundis.org/sequence/sequence/dry-your-specimens](http://fundis.org/sequence/sequence/dry-your-specimens)

In California, collecting mushrooms is usually allowed in National Forests **with a permit**. Permits can be obtained at the headquarters of the National Forest you're visiting, and are usually inexpensive or free. However, restrictions vary among the individual National Forests, so make sure to find out the specifics when picking up your permit. In Oregon, Washington, and Alaska, most State and Federal lands allow collecting up to a gallon per day without a permit, but again, regulations vary, so check ahead of time.

Don't forget to look for other mushrooms and fungi while you're there! Like other Rare Fungi, part of why this mushroom is rare is because it grows **in a place that mushroom pickers don't generally go**: mossy montane wetlands. Since you've already got iNaturalist open, why not record your other finds?

Most mushrooms are like fruit: picking an apple from an apple tree doesn't hurt the tree. In the same way, **harvesting mushrooms does not generally hurt the mycelium of the fungus**. We do still recommend leaving some mushrooms behind, and not picking perennial mushrooms, like brackets and conks.

## Who to contact

If you think you've found this mushroom, and you're not sure about any of the above, such as how to report the find, whether you can collect it, or what to do with it once you have collected it, please contact us!

**WestCoast\_Rare@fundis.org**

# Habitat



Look for the Lobed Oysterling growing on **moss**, especially the kind that grows flat or creeps along the ground in **wetlands** - springs, fens, creeksides, muskeg, bogs, and even snowmelt ponds.

## More information

Dewey R. 2009. *Species Fact Sheet*. Deschutes National Forest, USFS. [fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/documents/planning-docs/sfs-fu-ar-rhenia-lobata-2009-04.doc](https://fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/documents/planning-docs/sfs-fu-ar-rhenia-lobata-2009-04.doc)

Krisai-Greilhuber I. 2019. *Arrhenia lobata*. The Global Fungal Red List Initiative. [iucn.ekoo.se/iucn/species\\_view/106608/](https://iucn.ekoo.se/iucn/species_view/106608/)

Laursen GA & Seppelt RD. 2009. *Common Interior Alaska Cryptogams*. University of Alaska Press: pg. 92-93.

Siegel N, Vellinga EC, Schwarz C, Castellano MA & Ikeda D. 2019. *A Field Guide to the Rare Fungi of California's National Forests*. Bookmobile: pg. 31-32. [mykoweb.com/CAF/PDF/Rare\\_Fungi\\_of\\_CA\\_National\\_Forests.pdf](https://mykoweb.com/CAF/PDF/Rare_Fungi_of_CA_National_Forests.pdf)

iNaturalist (7 obs.):

[inaturalist.org/taxa/500137-Stereopsis-humphreyi](https://inaturalist.org/taxa/500137-Stereopsis-humphreyi)

Mushroom Observer (4 obs.):

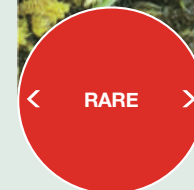
[mushroomobserver.org/name/show\\_name/19343](https://mushroomobserver.org/name/show_name/19343)

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# The Lobed Oysterling

*Arrhenia lobata*



Status: **RARELY COLLECTED**  
Assessed: **NEAR THREATENED**

This delicate, wrinkled little fungus is assumed to be a **parasite** on wet mosses. It likes places so wet it is **even found underwater** along mossy creek edges! It is known from high mountain springs and northern latitudes, so **might be in danger** as global temperatures rise.



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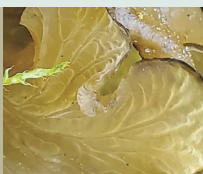




## Description

This delicate little grey-brown mushroom grows directly on **living mosses** in **wetlands**, usually creeping moss mats. It has a kidney or **fan-shaped cap** with forked or **wrinkled veins** on the underside. When it dries out, the color turns paler. It is usually **wet and rubbery-looking**, as it grows in wetlands. The cap is up to 1½ inches across, and it smells fishy or like moss.

*Most species of Arrhenia have widely spaced gills like little oyster mushrooms, thus the name “oysterling”. This one is unusual with wrinkled veins like a chanterelle!*



## What else could it be?

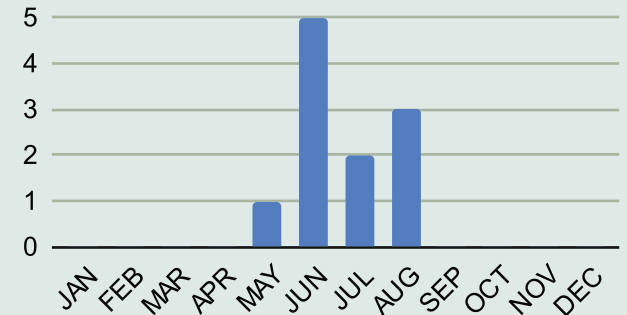
**Veined Mossear** (*Rimbachia bryophila*) grows on moss but has gills with cross-veins and is completely **white**. The **Small Moss Oysterling** (*Arrhenia retiruga*) also grows on moss and has veins, but is **grey** rather than brown, and often grows on elevated moss stems. It's also generally smaller, not getting bigger than ⅝ inch. The **Peeling Oysterling** (*Crepidotus mollis*) can look similar, but has **gills** and grows on **wood** instead of moss.



**CAUTION:** Never eat wild mushrooms without a confident identification! Contact Poison Control if you think you have eaten a poisonous mushroom: 1-800-222-1222

## When & Where?

The Lobed Oysterling has been spotted from **May through August**, circumboreally, including Alaska, Svalbard, Russia, Denmark, and the Inuvik Region of the Northern Territories.



Data from iNaturalist & Mushroom Observer



*This species has been proposed and assessed for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, but has not yet been accepted and published.*