Lactarius cordovaensis

Status: DATA DEFICIENT


iNaturalist (0 obs.): inaturalist.org/taxa/1159373-Lactarius-cordovaensis
Mushroom Observer (0 obs.): mushroomobserver.org/name/show_name/44643

Photo by David Baron

Growing in groups in deep moss near streambanks with Western Hemlock dominated needleleaf forests with Sitka Spruce also in the vicinity. Both locations are within a mile of a glacier and tend to be colder than the neighboring forests further away. Because this species is only known from two locations, its habitat associations are not well understood.

More information


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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

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.

Habitat

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 be sure to note what trees are nearby, and any other salient features. For example, was the mushroom growing under a hemlock, or a Douglas fir? Did it have a particular 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

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 and Washington, you are typically allowed to collect one gallon without a permit on most public lands; but not all, so be sure to check! In BC, collecting is allowed on Crown land without a permit, but it’s illegal to pick mushrooms in a provincial or national park.

Don’t forget to look for other mushrooms and fungi while you’re there! Since you’ve already got iNaturalist open, why not record your other finds?

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This large buff colored milk-cap is only documented from two locations in the vicinity of Cordova, Alaska, in 1964 and 1967. It got its name in 1979. In both locations it grows in Hemlock and Spruce forests near glaciers. It’s large size and distinctive appearance would make it difficult to overlook, however very little potential habitat for this species has been explored for mushrooms.

Photo by Kate Mohatt

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This pamphlet prepared by: Christin Sweeringen, Tiffany Theden, Alex Mayberry & Roo Vandegrift

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**Description**

The Cordova Milky is large (75-133+ mm) and its pale pink to buff caps stand out in the mossy forest floor. The cap also has concentric rings and fragile flesh, that exudes a creamy white latex that stains violet when exposed to the air. The stem is pockmarked and hollow. The flesh is beige before staining violet, and the taste is mild or with a slight sharpness.

**What else could it be?**

The Cordova Milky is very similar in character to *Lactarius uvidus*, which is common in northern coastal forests. The two species can be distinguished by size, with *L. uvidus* being smaller (cap of 60-80 mm) than *L. cordovaensis*.

**When & Where?**

The Cordova Milky is found in late summer to fall (August-October) in wet and cold hemlock-spruce forests near glaciers.

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**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

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**Potential Range**

Look for the Cordova Milky near the coast in the higher Northern latitudes. Because this species is only known from two locations in Alaska, its range is not well understood.

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Data from Naturalist & Mushroom Observer

Photo by Noah Siegel