

WHO WAS THAT MASKED SUILLUS?

For sheer tonnage of biomass, no other local mushroom or mushroom group can compete with our Suillus species. This abundance, and the fact that most species are a bit slimy and soon wormy, has saved a lot of the more edible species from the pot. All of them are "edible," though some are much more edible than others (Look for buttons, and peel slime before preparation). Do you know one from the other? If not, try this skeleton key to Pacific Northwest species, adapted from one of Kit's descriptive keys. Asterisk (\*) by name = known from Idaho. Names in **Bold face**= the better edibles.

1a. Stem with persistent ring or ring zone .....	2
1b. Stem without persistent ring or zone .....	14
2a. Stem flesh staining bluish-green in 15-30 min.; pores staining brown; mostly under Doug Fir one species under Larch.....	3
2b. Stem flesh not staining bluish-green, etc.....	7
3a. Tubes and pores yellowish when young to greenish-olive in age.....	4
3b. Tubes and pores whitish to greyish; not becoming truly yellow at any time; associated only with Larch.....	<i>Fuscoboletinus aeruginascens*</i>
4a. Cap fibrillose-scaly, brick-red to cinnamon, no rosy layer beneath; spore print dull cinnamon... <b>S. lakei*</b>	
4b. Cap not both fibrillose scaly and so colored.....	5
5a. Ring gelatinous, heavy, orange; cap viscid; odor acidulous.....	<i>S. ponderosus*</i>
5b. Ring fibrillose, more or less whitish.....	6
6a. Cap w/ streaks or scattered flat fibrils; buff colored; tubes compound, under Doug Fir... <i>S. caerulescens*</i>	
6b. Cap bald, orange-cinnamon to cinnamon; under Spruce & true Firs.....	<i>S. imitatus*</i>
7a. Cap dry, wooly fibrillose-scaly; under Larch.....	8
7b. Cap viscid (slimy); not wooly fibrillose-scaly.....	9
8a. Cap brown or yellow; tubes yellow; stem hollow at base (one of best local edibles).....	<b>S. cavipes*</b>
8b. Cap rosy-red; stem not hollow .....	<i>Fuscoboletinus ochraceoroseus*</i>
9a. Ring gelatinous, colored more or less like cap.....	10
9b. Ring more or less fibrillose, whitish.....	12
10a. Outer surface of ring purplish; often w/ Scotch Pine (Maybe best edible Suillus).....	<b>S. luteus*</b>
10b. Not as above.....	11
11a. Cap bay red with yellow edge (or all yellow), under Larch.....	<b>S. grevillei*</b>
11b. Cap, stem, & ring olivaceous when young; aging cinnamon.....	<i>S. subolivaceus*</i>
12a. Cap mustardy yellow w/flat brown scales near edge .....	<i>S. sibiricus</i>
12b. Cap not as above.....	13
13a. Cap olive, umbonate when young ["too goeey and gluey" David Arora].....	<i>S. umbonatus*</i>
13b. Cap streaked dull yellow-brown, ring fragmentary, under 2 or 3 needle pines.....	<b>S. psuedobrevipes*</b>
14a. Cap margin with fringe or cottony roll when young.....	15
14b. Cap margin naked when young.....	21
15a. Stem with a granular rash or dark brownish dots.....	16
15b. Stem lacking such a rash.....	20
16a. Cap mustardy-yellow, w/ flat brownish scales near edge.....(See 13a, dble keyed).....	<i>S. sibiricus*</i>
16b. Cap without flat brown scales.....	17
17a. Partial veil membranous.....	18
17b. Partial veil cottony or wooly.....	19
18a. Cap dark brown in all ages, fringe like dark skin, stem whitish, under white pine.....	<b>S. borealis</b>
18b. Cap white, bruising brown, w/brown slime; under Lodgepole pine .....	<i>S. brunnescens</i>
19a. Granular spots on stem conspicuous at all ages, cap yellowish when young, red-orange-brown when old; under Beach & Bishop Pine .....	<i>S. glandulosipes</i>
19b. Gran. spots obscure when young; cap pale pinkish-cinnamon, under Lodgepole.....	<i>S. albidipes</i>
20a. Veil cottony; pores small & round, not staining brown, tube length normal; cap dull yellowish. Superabundant in N. Idaho. (edible but who would?).....	<i>S. albivelatus*</i>
20b. Veil membranous; pores angular, tubes unequal (pore surface irregular); under Fir in late fall or winter, not well known; needs validation.....	<i>S. appendiculatus*</i>
21a. Stem with a granular rash of dark brownish spots.....	22
21b. Stem without such a rash.....	27
22a. Flesh bluing when cut; cap more or less wooly.....	23
22b. Flesh not bluing when cut; cap glabrous (bald).....	24
23a. Cap yellow-orange; pores brownish when young; under pines] .....	<i>S. tomentosus*</i>
23b. Cap olive to brown; buttons w/dense grayish fibrils .....	<i>S. tomentosus, var. discolor*</i>
24a. Pores small & + round; cap cinnamon, aging dull red-cinnamon; under pine.....	<b>S. granulatus*</b>
24b. Pores large & angular.....	25
25a. Cap dk red brown; stem usually narrowed at base; tubes decurrent, .....	<i>S. punctatipes*</i>
25b. Not combining above features.....	26
26a. Cap convex to plane, pale yellow beneath smoky slime, stem stout, under pine.....	<i>S. flavogranulatus*</i>
26b. Cap umbonate or bell shaped, small (1.5-4 cm) streaked brown/yellow, stem slender; in clumps of 40-50, under beach pine.....	<i>S. helenae</i>
27a. Cap white when young, ages pale yellow to dull cinnamon buff; under Lodgepole... <i>S. pallidiceps*</i>	
27b. Cap darker than above.....	28
28a. Cap brown when young, aging yellowish, under 2-3 needle pines; stem often short.....	<b>S. brevipes</b>
28b. Cap red-brown, slimy, under oaks or other hardwoods?--not a Suillus.....	see <i>Boletus flaviporus</i>