

***Gyromitra esculenta*** (Persoon:Fries) FriesROD name *Gyromitra esculenta*

Family Discinaceae      Morphological Habit cup

**Description:** SPORE-BEARING TISSUE convoluted, brainlike, red-brown to dark brown. **Stem** somewhat tan, up to 5 cm tall, 2.5 cm wide, hollow. **Asci** J-negative, operculate. **Spores** ellipsoid to broadly subfusoid, 20-26 x 10-13 µm, smooth.

**Distinguishing Features:** *Gyromitra esculenta* is at the center of a species complex that includes species with a spore-bearing tissue that is prominently lobed rather than irregularly recurved at maturity and that is relatively even to only slightly wrinkled, rarely strongly wrinkled. *Gyromitra esculenta* is most often confused with *G. infula*. The spores of *G. esculenta* tend to be relatively wider.

**Distribution:** Known from northern temperate forests in North America and Europe. Known from many dozens of locations throughout the range of the Northwest Forest Plan.

**Substrate and Habitat:** Fruits on the ground in disturbed or undisturbed mixed conifer and hardwood forests and occasionally in urban lawns.

**Season:** Spring.

**References:** Phillips, R. 1991. *Mushrooms of North America*. Boston, MA: Little, Brown and Co. 319 p.  
Tylutki, E.E. 1993. *Mushrooms of Idaho and the Pacific Northwest, Discomycetes*. Moscow, ID: University Press of Idaho. 133 p.

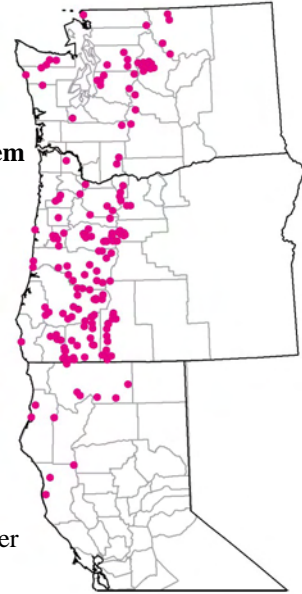


Photo courtesy of Steve Trudell

Copyright Steve Trudell



Photo courtesy of Eugene Butler