

***Gyromitra esculenta* (Persoon:Fries) Fries**ROD 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.

