

Sarcosoma mexicana (Ellis & Holway) Paden & TylutkiROD name *Sarcosoma mexicana*

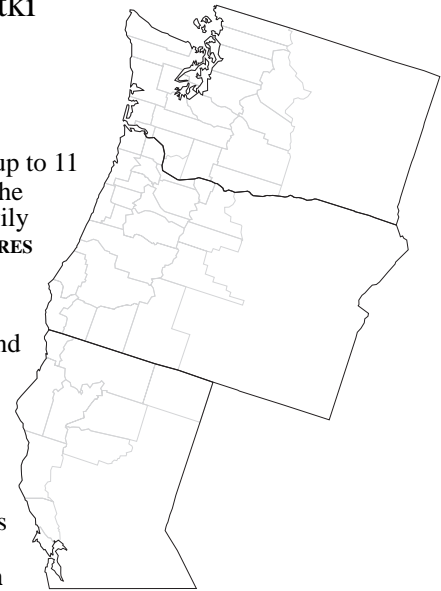
Family Sarcosomataceae

Morphological Habit cup

Description: SPOROCARPS wedge-shaped, substipitate, apotheciate. CUP up to 11 cm broad, many mm thick, with age becoming thinner from the collapse of the gelatinous interior. HYMENIUM black. ABHYMENIAL SURFACE black with heavily pigmented hairs. ASCI curved at base, operculate, inamyloid, 8-spored. SPORES elliptical, 23-26 x 10-14 μm , smooth.

Distinguishing Features: Characterized by a substipitate, black cup and distinctly gelatinized interior. *Sarcosoma mexicana* is the common *Sarcosoma* in the Cascade and Coast Ranges from northern California to central Oregon. It has a well-developed and persistent gelatinous interior, and smaller spores than *S. latahense*.

Distribution: Also known from Mexico and India. Known from 116 sites within the range of the northern spotted owl. It is particularly abundant in Oregon within **Benton Co., Douglas Co., Jackson Co., Lane Co., and Linn Co.** This is probably an artifact of the intensity of survey for it by BLM personnel. It also occurs in four historic sites in Washington and a number of sites in northern **Mendocino Co.** as well as **Del Norte Co.** and **Siskiyou Co.** in northern California.



Substrate and habitat: Solitary to gregarious on or near decaying wood, or on litter and soil. Fruiting in conifer forests from low to high elevation.

Season: Fruits from November through May.

Reference: PADEN, J.W., AND TYLUTKI, E.E. 1969. Idaho Discomycetes. II. Mycologia 61:683-693.



Photo courtesy of E. Butler
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