

Cordyceps capitata (Fr.) Link

ROD name *Cordyceps capitata*

Family Clavicipitaceae **Morphological Habit** earth tongue

Description: **SPOROCARP** capitate, 2-12 cm tall, spore bearing region conspicuously enlarged from stem, typically ovoid to spherical heads, 5-20 x 5-15 mm, brown to olive to olive-black, punctate to rough, cortex of brown pseudoparenchymatous hyphae. **STEM** 2-10 mm x 2-10 cm, brown-yellow to olive-tan to olive-gray to olive-black, often furfuraceous. **SPORE-BEARING STRUCTURES** ovoid, 650-950 x 250-450 μm, entirely embedded. **ASCI** cylindrical, 350-550 x 10-14 μm, gradually narrowing below with a pronounced hemispherical apical cap possessing a pore. **SPORES** filiform, multiseptate, breaking up into single-celled, cylindrical to slightly fusiform part spores 8-30 x 2.5-3 μm, hyaline.

Distinguishing Features: *Cordyceps canadensis*, *C. valliformis*, and *C. fracta* are all similar to *C. capitata* in that they all possess ovoidlike caps and fruit from *Elaphomyces* species. These taxa are characterized by part spore dimensions and the presence or absence of clava possessing an ectal layer differentiated by palisadelike hyphae. *Cordyceps canadensis* is the most similar to *C. capitata*. The former possesses a differentiated ectal layer on the cap, whereas the latter does not.

Distribution: Widespread but locally rare in the Northern Hemisphere. **CALIFORNIA**, Del Norte Co., Yurok Experimental Forest, on hillside of forest road; **Humboldt Co.**, Patrick's Point State Park; Prairie Creek State Park, along Prairie Creek trail; Redwood Forest; **Marin Co.**, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Inverness; **Mendocino Co.**, Jackson State Forest, Aleuria Glen; **Sonoma Co.**, Salt Point State Park, off Hwy. 1; **OREGON**, **Clackamas Co.**, Bureau of Land Management, Cascades Resource Area, north fork of Eagle Creek; Mount Hood National Forest, Still Creek; **Clatsop Co.**, Ecola State Park, Cannon Beach; **Coos Co.**, 11.3 km south of Bandon; **Lane Co.**, Siuslaw National Forest (SNF), Siltcoos River; **Lincoln Co.**, SNF, Cascade Head Experimental Forest; **Linn Co.**, Roaring River State Fish Hatchery; **Tillamook Co.**, SNF, Cascade Experimental Forest, Cascade Head; **Yamhill Co.**, SNF, 4.8 km south of Green Top; **WASHINGTON**, **Clallam Co.**, Olympic National Park (ONP), Olympic Hot Springs; ONP, Sol Duc Hot Springs; Olympic National Forest (ONF), Soleduc Falls; **Grays Harbor Co.**, Olympic State Wildlife Recreation Area, Humptulips; ONF, Lake Quinault; **Mason Co.**, ONF, Olympic Mountains, Lake Cushman; **Pierce Co.**, Mount Rainier National Park (MRNP), Longmire; MRNP, Lower Kautz Creek; MRNP, Lower Tahoma Creek; MRNP, Nisqually River; **Skamania Co.**, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Pacific Crest Trail; **Snohomish Co.**, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Barlow Pass; Troublesome Creek.

Substrate and Habitat: Parasitic on various *Elaphomyces* species.

Season: Autumn.

Reference: Arora, D. 1986. Mushrooms demystified. Berkeley, CA: Ten Speed Press. 959 p.

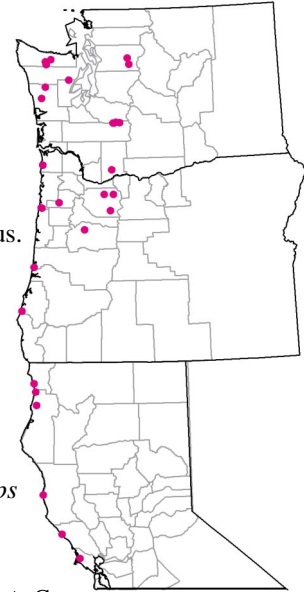


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