

*Hygrophorus caeruleus* MillerROD name *Hygrophorus caeruleus*

Family Hygrophoraceae

Morphological Habit mushroom

**Description:** CAP 50-90 mm broad, moist, glabrous, rimose and cracked, blue to cream colored. FLESH dingy blue-green and cream. GILLS blue-green, waxy. STEM 25-50 x 15-25 mm, tapering abruptly toward base, dry, apex pruinose, innately longitudinally fibrillose below, creamy toward apex, intensifying to blue-green to dirty pale brown below. VEIL absent. RHIZOMORPHS white, numerous. ODOR strongly farinaceous. TASTE mild, becoming unpleasant. PILEIPELLIS an ixocutis of thin-walled, hyaline hyphae 2.5-5 µm in diam. GILL TRAMA of parallel hyphae. CLAMP CONNECTIONS abundant. SPORES ellipsoid, (6.5-) 7-9 x 4-5 µm, thin-walled, inamyloid.

**Distinguishing Features:** Characterized by its robust, blue-tinged, gilled mushroom with blue-green, waxy gills, a conspicuous basal rhizomorph and a distinctly farinaceous odor. It fruits near melting snowbanks with Pinaceae. *Hygrophorus canescens* and *H. pallidus* have similar stature and coloration, but have no odor, interwoven gill trama, smaller spores, and different plant associates. *Hygrophorus subviolaceus* is similarly colored but has interwoven lamellar trama, a cap cuticle with narrower (2-3 µm diam) hyphae, and a more fragile, slender stature.

**Distribution:** Endemic to Oregon and Washington. Known from three sites within the range of the northern spotted owl: OREGON, Hood River Co., Mount Hood National Forest, off trail 645; Jefferson Co., Deschutes National Forest, Jack Creek; WASHINGTON, Kittitas Co., Twenty-Nine Pines.

**Substrate and habitat:** Occurs in soil in association with roots of Pinaceae spp. near melting snowbanks.

**Season:** Fruits from May through July and possibly fall.

**References:** MILLER, JR., O. K. 1984. A new taxa of *Hygrophorus* from North America. *Mycologia* 76:816-820. LARGENT, D. L. 1985. The Agaricales of California. 5. Hygrophoraceae. Eureka: Mad River Press, Inc. 208 p.

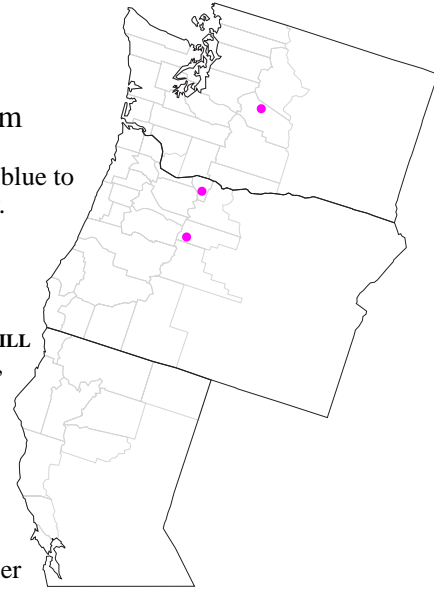


Photo courtesy of T. O'Dell