

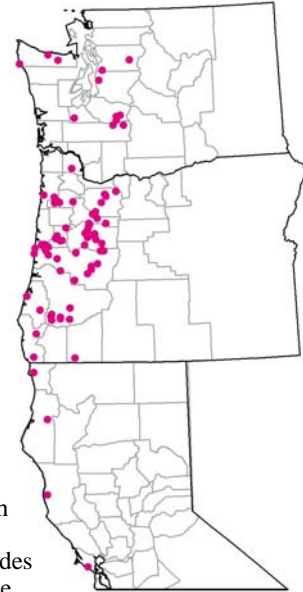
Plectania melastoma (Sowerby: Fries) FuckelROD name *Plectania melastoma*

Family Sarcosomataceae Morphological Habit cup

Description: SPOROCARP cupulate, sessile to subsessile, black or nearly black, up to 3 cm in diam., relatively thick fleshed but interior not gelatinous. Young specimens may or may not have orange to rust-colored granules around the rim of the cup. ASCI relatively thick walled, long, narrow, curving bases, operculate, inamyloid. PARAPHYSES up to 4 µm wide, branched, anastomosing around asci. SPORES ellipsoid, 21-24 x 8-10 µm, smooth.

Distinguishing Features: The inamyloid asci, ellipsoid spores, and nongelatinous interior separate this species from all other fungal species in the region.

Distribution: Across North America and Europe. **CALIFORNIA**, Del Norte Co., Crescent City; **Marin** Co., Audubon Canyon Ranch, Volunteer Canyon; **Mendocino** Co., Jackson State Forest, Mendocino Woodlands; **OREGON**, **Benton** Co., Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Mary's Peak Resource Area, Cabin Creek; BLM, 1.6 km southeast of Old Butte Mountain; BLM, northwest of Hull Spring; Siuslaw National Forest (SNF), north side of Mary's Peak, Woods Creek Rd.; SNF, jct. of Hwy. 34 and Mary's Peak Rd.; Bunker Hill; Paul Dunn Forest, south of Tampico Rd., along Rd. 320; **Clackamas** Co., BLM Cascades Resource Area, north of Butte Creek; BLM, upper Eagle Creek; BLM, 1.6 km south of Hope Lake; BLM, 1.6 km northwest of Table Rock Wilderness; Mount Hood National Forest (MHNF), Cast Creek; MHNF, 4 km northeast of Goat Mountain; **Columbia** Co., BLM, west of Scaponia campground; **Coos** Co., BLM, southeast of Big Creek; Coos County Forest; Beaver Hill Forest; **Curry** Co., Siskiyou National Forest (SINF), Wheeler Creek; SINF, 1.6 km east of Agness; **Douglas** Co., BLM, near Olalla Creek; BLM, near Chipmunk Ridge; BLM, near Catching Creek; BLM, Dutchman Creek; BLM, Beaver Creek; BLM, Shively Creek; BLM, North Myrtle Creek Research Natural Area; BLM, Irwin Rocks Research Natural Area; Jackson Co., Rogue River National Forest (RRNF), Haskins Creek; **Lane** Co., BLM, Jasper Creek; BLM, south of Badger Mountain; BLM, upper McGowan Creek; SNF, 1.6 km southwest of Fisher; SNF, headwaters of Five Rivers; SNF, Cummins Creek trailhead; SNF, China Creek trail; Umpqua National Forest, Patterson Creek; Willamette National Forest (WNF), south shore Fall Creek Reservoir; WNF, H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, 3.2 km east of Mona campground; WNF, 1.6 km west of Mona campground; **Lincoln** Co., SNF, Cape Perpetua State Park; SNF, Yachats Ridge; SNF, Cascade Creek area; **Linn** Co., near Holley; Tadmor Baptist camp, McDowell Creek; BLM, Trout Creek; BLM, near Green Peter Reservoir; BLM, near McCully Mountain Rd.; BLM 1.6 km south of Fords Mill; BLM, 3.2 km southeast of McCully Mountain; BLM, 1.6 km northeast of Hammond Camp; BLM, 1.6 km south of Camp Morrison; WNF, Moose Creek; WNF, Gordon Lakes; **Marion** Co., BLM, near Fawn Creek; WNF, near Detroit; **Yamhill** Co., BLM, south side of Burton Ridge; BLM 3.2 km south of Bell Mountain; **WASHINGTON**, **Clallam** Co., Olympic National Park (ONP), Mount Angeles; ONP, Lake Crescent; ONP, Lake Ozette; ONP, west of Ozette Ranger Station; **Lewis** Co., Gifford Pinchot National Forest, La Wis Wis forest camp; Mount Rainier National Park (MRNP), Longmire; **Pierce** Co., MRNP, lower Tahoma Creek; MRNP, Sumer land trail; **Snohomish** Co., Canyon Park in Bothell; Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Monte Cristo campground; **Thurston** Co., Capitol Forest.



Substrate and Habitat: Usually associated with decaying woody debris of relatively small diameter (often less than 7.50-10 cm diam.).

Season: Spring.

Reference: Tylutki, E.E. 1993. Mushrooms of Idaho and the Pacific Northwest, Discomycetes. Moscow, ID: University Press of Idaho. 133 p.

Photo courtesy of mycology team

