

# What to do if you find it:

## Make an observation

The first thing to do is to **record your observation**. We prefer to use the iNaturalist app for that (visit [www.iNaturalist.org](http://www.iNaturalist.org) to learn more), but you could also upload your observation to Mushroom Observer (visit [www.MushroomObserver.org](http://www.MushroomObserver.org)). The QR code to the right will take you to the Fungal Diversity Survey (FunDiS for short) website on how to “Contribute Observations” to the project:



The best thing you can do is take *lots* of photographs and notes. Typically, smartphones will automatically georeference any photos taken, but it is good practice to note your exact location, preferably with GPS coordinates, and **be sure to note what trees are nearby**, and any other salient features. For example, was the mushroom growing under a hemlock, or a Douglas fir? Did it have a particular smell?

## Collect a specimen

If you are in an area where it is allowed and have any necessary permits, **we strongly urge you to create a vouchered collection**. This means a dried specimen for deposit in a herbarium, where researchers can access it for things like DNA sequencing. If you don't know how to do this, please see:

[fundis.org/sequence/sequence/dry-your-specimens](http://fundis.org/sequence/sequence/dry-your-specimens)

In California, collecting mushrooms is usually allowed in National Forests **with a permit**. Permits can be obtained at the headquarters of the National Forest you're visiting, and are usually inexpensive or free. However, restrictions vary among the individual National Forests, so make sure to find out the specifics when picking up your permit. In Oregon and Washington, you are typically allowed to collect one gallon without a permit on most public lands; but not all, so be sure to check! In BC, collecting is allowed on Crown land without a permit, but it's illegal to pick mushrooms in a provincial or national park.

Don't forget to look for other mushrooms and fungi while you're there! Since you've already got iNaturalist open, why not record your other finds?

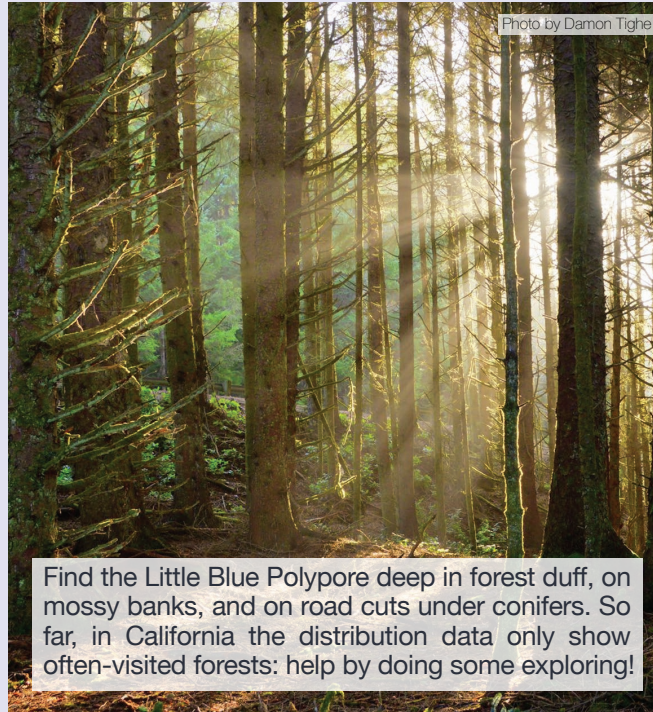
Most mushrooms are like fruit: picking an apple from an apple tree doesn't hurt the tree. In the same way, **harvesting mushrooms does not generally hurt the mycelium of the fungus**. We do still recommend leaving some mushrooms behind, and not picking perennial mushrooms, like brackets and conks.

## Who to contact

If you think you've found this mushroom, and you're not sure about any of the above, such as how to report the find, whether you can collect it, or what to do with it once you have collected it, please contact us!

[conservation@fundis.org](mailto:conservation@fundis.org)

# Habitat



Its presumed partner is the Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), but can it grow with Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and other conifers? Is it only growing with old trees? All questions we don't have answers for yet, but we hope that you can help!



## More information

Siegel N & Schwarz C. 2016. *Mushrooms of the Redwood Coast: A Comprehensive Guide to the Fungi of Coastal Northern California*. Ten Speed Press: pg. 460.

Desjardin DE, Wood MG & Stevens FA. 2015. *California mushrooms: the comprehensive identification guide*. Timber Press: pg. 381 (as *Albatrellus caeruleoporus*).

Vellinga EC. 2017. *Nealbatrellus subcaeruleoporus*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2017: e.T95385798A95385801. [doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-3.RLTS.T95385798A95385801.en](https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-3.RLTS.T95385798A95385801.en)

iNaturalist (16 obs.): [inaturalist.org/taxa/607285-Nealbatrellus-subcaeruleoporus](https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/607285-Nealbatrellus-subcaeruleoporus)

Mushroom Observer (21 obs.): [mushroomobserver.org/name/show\\_name/52065](https://mushroomobserver.org/name/show_name/52065)

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# The Little Blue Polypore

*Nealbatrellus subcaeruleoporus*



IUCN Red List: **NEAR THREATENED**

We know very little about the distribution and the habitat of this species. We assume it is *ectomycorrhizal* (growing with living trees and receiving food from the tree in exchange for nutrients scavenged from the soil), seemingly with Western hemlock.



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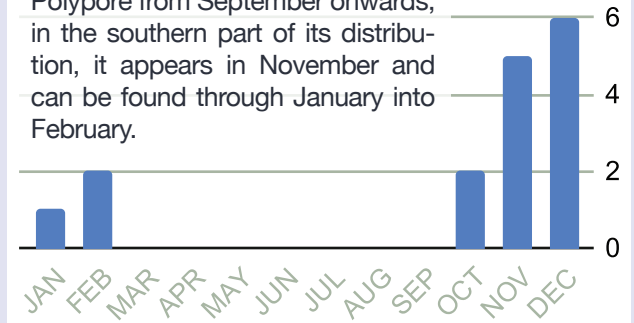




Photo by Noah Siegel

# When & Where?

In the north, look for the Little Blue Polypore from September onwards; in the southern part of its distribution, it appears in November and can be found through January into February.



Data from iNaturalist & Mushroom Observer



## Potential Range

We know that it grows on the coast from north of San Francisco, California, up into British Columbia, often with Western hemlock. But it has also been found at least once in inland British Columbia.

IUCN 2019. *Neobatrrellus subcaeruleoporus*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2020-2. Map layer from Stamen Design.

# Description

The Little Blue Polypore has a cap and a stem, which can be in the center of the cap, eccentric or to the side. The cap is up to 2 inches wide, round, with an inrolled edge, and it is blue: **a nice light blue**, a bit darker in the centre of the cap. When the cap ages, orangish stains might develop. The surface of the cap is matte, and a bit felty. The **pores**, under the cap, are round and small, and also blue, the same colors as the cap surface. The stem is up to 2 inches long, with **the same blues** as the cap and pores.

## What else could it be?

Its bigger brother, *Albatrellus flettii*, also has blue caps, **but has white pores**. It can grow up to 10 inches across, and it has been found more inland than the Little Blue Polypore. Just like its smaller brother, it grows on the ground.

## Pore surface:



Photo by Christian Schwarz



**CAUTION:** Never eat wild mushrooms without a confident identification! Contact Poison Control if you think you have eaten a poisonous mushroom: 1-800-222-1222