

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 to learn more), but you could also upload your observation to Mushroom Observer (visit 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 madrone or a manzanita, and if so, what species?

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

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 rules still vary, so make sure you check before you go.

Don't forget to look for other mushrooms and fungi while you're there! Like other Rare Fungi, part of why this mushroom is rare is because it grows **in a place that mushroom pickers don't generally go**: manzanita and madrone groves! 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

Habitat

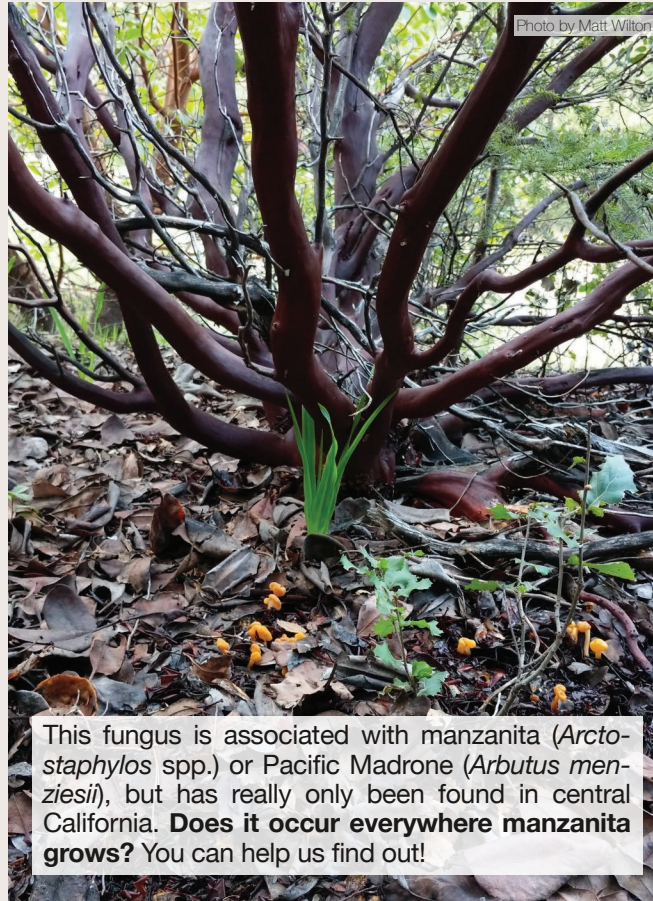


Photo by Matt Wilton

This fungus is associated with manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* spp.) or Pacific Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), but has really only been found in central California. **Does it occur everywhere manzanita grows?** You can help us find out!



Photo by Robert Couse-Baker

Pacific Madrone is easily recognized by its bark: the flaking outer bark overlaying smooth inner bark, often in warm oranges and reddish-browns, is a dead give-away.

More information

Siegel N, Vellinga EC, Schwarz C, Castellano MA, Ikeda D. 2018. A field guide to the rare fungi of California's National Forests. Bookmobile: pg. 277–268. Accessible at:

mykoweb.com/CAF/PDF/Rare_Fungi_of_CA_National_Forests.pdf

iNaturalist (8 obs.):

inaturalist.org/taxa/1090621-Cudonia-spathulata

Mushroom Observer (2 obs.):

mushroomobserver.org/name/show_name/31120

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The Manzanita Butter Clump

Pachycudonia spathulata



Photo by Matt Wilton

RARE

Status: **RARELY COLLECTED**

We encourage you to find a patch of manzanita or Pacific madrone and look for this lovely little yellow stalked ascomycete! It is only known from six verified dried collections from California. It is always worth visiting new habitats because **they are often under-explored**, giving you a chance to find something no one else has seen either.

Want to have an adventure?
— Explore a new habitat!



This pamphlet prepared by:
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Photo by Daniel S. Newman



Description

What does it look like? It is **tongue-shaped** (“spathulate” if you want to impress your friends), often lumpy, with a **golden head** and a paler stem that is about 1–2 inches tall. It dries a little redder orange. The flesh is **leathery, not gelatinous**.

What else could it be?

All the other fungi that the Manzanita Butter Clump could be confused with live **under conifers instead of manzanita or madrone**. *Spathularia flavida* occurs in conifer duff and it is flatter and paler; *Pachycudonia monticola* is brownish pink and under conifers at higher elevations; and *Cudonia circinans*, which is more rounded and brownish, is often associated with Sitka spruce. Lastly, Jelly Babies (*Leotia lubrica*) may be similar in size and color, but will have a **viscid cap and gelatinous core** to the flesh.



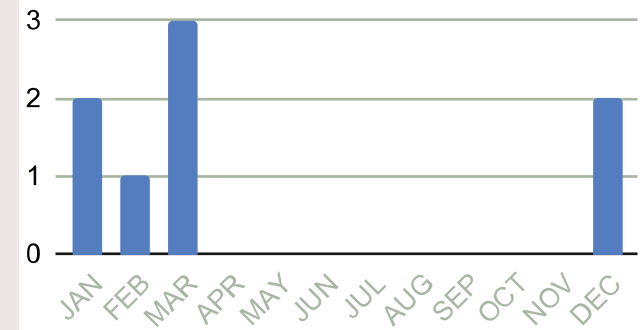
Photo by Matt Wilton



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

When & Where?

Look for this species in the winter and early spring.



Data from iNaturalist & Mushroom Observer

