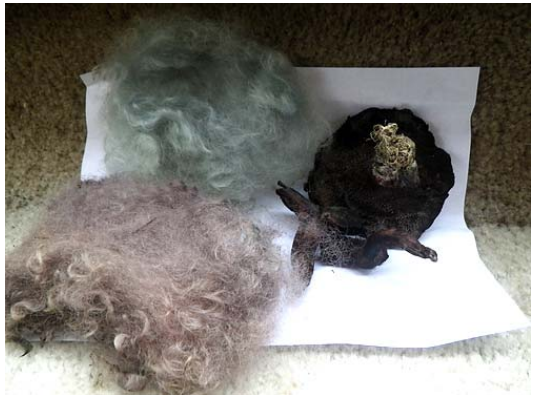
Sarcodon fuscoindcum:

Everything about this toothed mushroom is purple. Unlike *Hydnellum* it normally has a distinct cap and stem, but has a similar ferny smell and grows on the ground near conifers. With care, this mushroom can produce purple and blue dyes. High pH will bring out the blues.



Hypomyces lactifluorum (Lobster Mushroom):

This distinctive mushroom is actually two mushrooms in one (only one of which produces good dye pigments): a *Russula brevipes* (short-stemmed Russula) being attacked by the parasitic *Hypomyces lactifluorum*. The parasite deforms the host, such that gills are no longer formed and the surface becomes orange and bumpy. The orange surfaces contain the dye, so you can scrape off the surface for dye and eat or dry the white interior of this tasty mushroom. Higher pH will produce more purples, lower pH will yield more oranges. As one of the few edible dye mushrooms that produce strong colors, this is a good choice for baby clothes.

Hydnellum aurantiacum:

This mushroom has teeth rather than gills, and a dense, fibrous texture. Growing on the ground with mosses and rotten wood, it can often be found in abundance in the fall. When picked, the mushroom has a distinctive smell, somewhat reminiscent of fern fiddleheads. Extracting green dye from this mushroom requires a pH of 8 or higher

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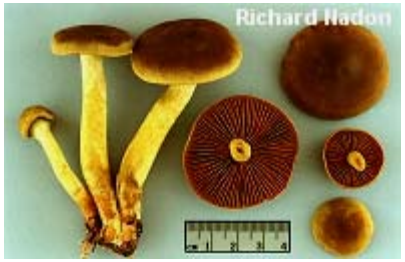
Contractile roots

Phaeolus schweinitzii (Dyer's Polypore)

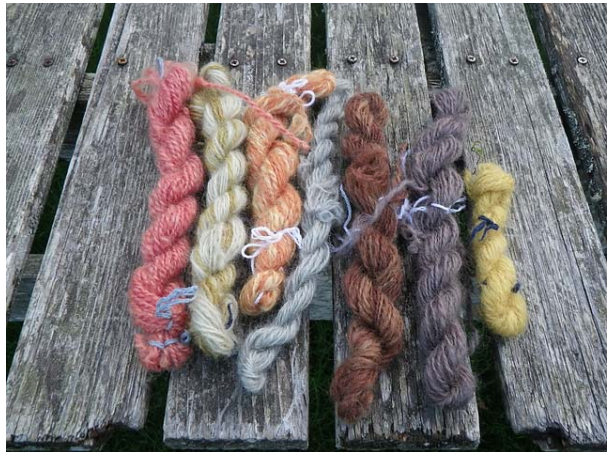
This large polypore grows on the roots and stumps of conifers. When it is young, the growing edges are bright yellow and orange and the pore surface (it has pores rather than gills) is yellow green. The texture is spongy but tough. A strong dye mushroom, this polypore can produce a range of colors depending on pH, the addition of mordants and age. Alone it produces a rich yellow; dyeing in a rusty iron pot will bring out greens.

Cortinarius semisanguineus, C. crocifollium and other bright gilled webcaps:



Cortinarius is a huge genus of mushrooms, but the ones of interest to dyers are the small ones with non-slimy caps and bright colored gills. All of the dye corts are toxic, and they all yield shades of red, purple, and orange, even the yellow and saffron gilled ones. Stems can be separated from caps to concentrate the redder pigments (in the caps).

Identifying Dye Mushrooms on Lopez



Most mushroom dyes will give color to wool without any mordants. Different colors can be achieved by pre-mordanting or co-mordanting with alum or iron (including rusty pots) and some colors are best extracted in a high pH dye bath.