



## Edible Mushroom of *Pleurotus* spp.: A Case Study of Oyster Mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus* L.)

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THE HUMANITY tries to find alternative sources for everyday nutrition beside the traditional ones, which include meats, fruits and vegetables. The edible mushrooms are considered a promising non-traditional source for human diet. Among mushroom species, the genus of *Pleurotus* is commercially essential mushrooms, which produces alone about 25% of total cultivated throughout the world. *Pleurotus* mushrooms are rich in several nutritional compounds like dietary fibers, proteins, carbohydrates, essential amino acids, water-soluble vitamins, and minerals as well as many functional bioactive molecules including polyphenols, polysaccharides, lipids, and terpenoids. The current review focuses on the genus of *Pleurotus* and its different mushroom species. This mushroom has a great attraction from consumers due to its desirable flavor and aroma. This mushroom has also several applications because of its antifungal, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antiviral, antidiabetic, hepatoprotective, hypolipidemic, hypotensive and cytotoxic attributes. Like any scientific theme, more and further open questions concerning the mushroom of *Pleurotus ostreatus* and its handling should be answered.

**Keywords:** Anticancer, Steroids, Ergosterol, Anti-inflammatory, Active ingredients.

### 1. *Pleurotus* genus and its common species

Beside fruits and vegetables, edible mushrooms are considered an important source for human diet around the world. An increase interest on the mushrooms due to their desirable flavor and aroma, as well as their enormous applications as anti-inflammatory, antifungal, antibacterial, antiviral, hepatoprotective, antidiabetic, hypolipidemic, hypotensive and cytotoxic properties (Zawadzka et al. 2022). Edible mushrooms are a large and fascinating group of fungi, which include 3283 mushroom species as edible or conditionally edible, accounting for about 20% of all mushroom taxa recorded in the global sources (Zhang et al. 2021). *Pleurotus* (Jacq.: Fr.) Kumm. is the second most distributed edible mushroom worldwide (Sekan et al. 2019). Among many species of edible mushrooms, *Pleurotus* species, which belongs the Kingdom of

Fungi, Phylum of Basidiomycota, Class of Agaricomycetes, Order of Agaricales, Family of Pleurotaceae, and the Genus is *Pleurotus* (**Table 1**).

China alone produces 87% of the global production of *Pleurotus* spp. (Barh et al. 2019). *Pleurotus* species are well known commercial and essential mushrooms, which widely cultivated throughout all over the world and due to their exceptional ligninolytic properties (Belletini et al. 2019). It is an edible mushroom and it also has several biological effects, as it contains important bioactive molecules. The global production of *Pleurotus* mushrooms alone may account for around 25% of the total cultivated mushrooms. *Pleurotus* species could be found in several places including tropical forests and often grow on dead and decaying tree stumps, fallen branches, and wet logs particularly in Asia (Barh et al. 2019). The handling of *Pleurotus* spp. mushroom

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requires depth understanding of the extrinsic and intrinsic factors that are needed for a suitable and efficient production based on their chemical, biological, physical, and enzymatic properties (Belletini *et al.* 2019). The mushrooms of *Pleurotus* are rich in dietary fiber, proteins, carbohydrates, essential amino acids, water-soluble vitamins, and minerals (Raman *et al.* 2021). *Pleurotus* has a huge

diversity in its species and strains like *Pleurotus ostreatus*, *Pleurotus citrinopileatus* var *cornucopiae*, *Pleurotus eryngii*, *Pleurotus pulmonarius*, and *Pleurotus djamor* (Barh *et al.* 2019). Many *Pleurotus* species (e.g., *P. citrinopileatus*, *P. djamor*, and *P. pulmonarius*) could be used as a potential functional food due to their rich in Mg and Zn salts (Włodarczyk *et al.*, 2021).

**Table 1. Selected list of some mushroom of *Pleurotus* species that belong Kingdom of Fungi, Phylum Basidiomycota, Class Agaricomycetes, Order Agaricales, Family Pleurotaceae, and the *Pleurotus* Genus.**

Mushroom species name	Location or occurrence
<i>Pleurotus abalonus</i> Y.H. Han, K.M. Chen & S. Cheng	No occurrences listed
<i>Pleurotus abieticola</i> R.H. Petersen & K.W. Hughes	Russia, China, Japan
<i>Pleurotus albidus</i> (Berk.) Pegler	Caribbean, South America
<i>Pleurotus australis</i> Sacc.	Australia; New Zealand
<i>Pleurotus calyptratus</i> (Lindblad ex Fr.) Sacc.	Europe
<i>Pleurotus citrinopileatus</i> Singer	Eastern Asia
<i>Pleurotus columbinus</i> Quél.	Europe
<i>Pleurotus cornucopiae</i> (Paulet) Quél.	Europe
<i>Pleurotus cystidiosus</i> O. K. Mill.	USA, Japan
<i>Pleurotus djamor</i> (Rumph. ex Fr.) Boedijn	Tropical countries
<i>Pleurotus dryinus</i> (Pers.) P. Kumm.	North America, Europe
<i>Pleurotus eryngii</i> (DC.) Quél.	Europe; the Middle East
<i>Pleurotus euosmus</i> (Berk.) Sacc.	Great Britain
<i>Pleurotus giganteus</i> (Berk.) Karun. & K.D. Hyde	China, Thailand, Australia
<i>Pleurotus flabellatus</i> Sacc.	Congo, Brazil, Costa Rica
<i>Pleurotus ferulae</i> (Lanzi) X. L. Mao, 2000	No occurrences listed
<i>Pleurotus fossulatus</i> Cooke	Afghanistan
<i>Pleurotus florida</i> Eger	No occurrences listed
<i>Pleurotus fuscosquamulosus</i> D.A. Reid & Eicker	Africa, Europe
<i>Pleurotus limpidus</i> (Fr.) Sacc.	Australia; the USA
<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> (Jacq. ex Fr.) P. Kumm	North America, Europe
<i>Pleurotus opuntiae</i> (Durieu & Lév.) Sacc.	North America
<i>Pleurotus placentodes</i> (Berk.) Sacc.	China
<i>Pleurotus populinus</i> O. Hilber & O. K. Mill.	North America
<i>Pleurotus pulmonarius</i> (Fr.) Quél.	North America, Australasia
<i>Pleurotus purpureo-olivaceus</i> (G. Stev.) Segedin, P.K. Buchanan & J.P. Wilkie	Australia; New Zealand
<i>Pleurotus nebrodensis</i> (Inzenga) Quél.	Spain, France, India
<i>Pleurotus rattenburyi</i> Segedin	Australia; New Zealand
<i>Pleurotus sajor-caju</i> (Fr.) Singer	Russia and New Zealand
<i>Pleurotus sapidus</i> Sacc.	USA, India, China
<i>Pleurotus salmoneostramineus</i> Lj.N. Vassiljeva	Japan
<i>Pleurotus smithii</i> Guzmán	Mexico
<i>Pleurotus spiculifer</i> (Berk.) Sacc.	No occurrences listed
<i>Pleurotus spodoleucus</i> (Fr.) Quél.	Switzerland, Japan
<i>Pleurotus tuber-regium</i> (Fr.) Singer	Africa, Asia, Australasia
<i>Pleurotus tuoliensis</i> (C.J. Mou) M.R. Zhao & Jin X. Zhang	China

Source: from this website: <https://www.gbif.org/species/> and <https://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/library/english-names> on 12.01.2022.



**Fig. 1.** Some photos of mushrooms of *Pleurotus ostreatus* in a fresh form. All photos were taken by Gréta Törös in Nano-Food Lab, Debrecen and from Magyar Gomba Kertész Kft.



**Fig. 2. Cultivating bag of oyster (*Pleurotus ostreatus*), which makes from wheat straw material as in Photo 1 (Magyar Gomba Kertész Kft., Demjén), whereas Photo 2 represents the cultivated oyster at Nanofood lab, which made from food industrial wastes (all photos were taken by Gréta Törös in Nano-Food Lab, Debrecen).**

Several studies have been published on different *Pleurotus* spp. including study the genetic diversity among these species in many countries like Jordan (Hasan et al. 2018), the bioactive compounds and their and medicinal properties (Paul et al. 2017; Golak-Siwulska et al. 2018; Sarma et al. 2018; Krakowska et al. 2020; Cateni et al. 2021; Elhusseiny et al. 2021a), cultivating on agricultural and agro-industrial by-products (Tagkouli et al. 2021), the green potential of these mushrooms in biotechnology and myco-remediation (Sekan et al. 2019; Ydav et al. 2021), the nutritional values of species of *Pleurotus*

(Raman et al. 2021), study the toxic and essential elements in some edible species (Mleczek et al. 2021), and the content of sterols and fatty acids comparing to some other edible mushrooms (Saini et al. 2021).

## **2. Nutritional value of *Pleurotus ostreatus* L.**

*Pleurotus* mushrooms are rich in several nutritional compounds including proteins, dietary fiber, carbohydrates, vitamins, essential amino acids, and minerals. As well as functional bioactive molecules (Raman et al. 2021). The mushrooms *Pleurotus* have unique applications for flavoring,

excellent preservation quality, aroma, and high nutritional and medicinal values (Raman et al. 2021). *Pleurotus ostreatus*, well known as hiratake and a traditional edible, is considered the most popular among *Pleurotus* species, highly nutritious mushroom with a nutrient-rich dietary composition (Sekan et al. 2019). This mushroom has many applications such as producing lignocellulolytic enzymes (e.g., laccases) for bioethanol production, pulp bleaching, bioremediation, foods, and textiles

(Duran-Aranguren et al. 2020). *Pleurotus ostreatus* has a distinguished capacity in the myco-remediation, which could apply to remediate the agro-industrial wastes through the degradation or deterioration a huge variety of compounds/substances in processes as myco-degradation and myco-deterioration (**Table 2**). This mushroom can also modify the structure of biosolids by enhancing their bio-separation, filterability, and dewaterability as highly tolerant to alkaline or acidic environments (Ahmed et al. 2020).

**Table 2. The main applied environmental technologies of *Pleurotus* species like organic solid waste recycling, the degradation of pollutants, and bioethanol production.**

<i>Pleurotus</i> species	The main applications of <i>Pleurotus</i> species	Reference
<b>Bioremediation and organic solid waste recycling</b>		
<i>Pleurotus mutilus</i>	Removing of hexavalent chromium and Congo red dye from aqueous solutions by mushroom biosorption	Alouache et al. (2021)
<i>Pleurotus eryngii</i>	Myco-remediation of sulfonamides by degradation to simpler organic compounds like sugar groups, formyl, acyl, and amino acid-derived compounds	Baran et al. (2021)
<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> L.	Mushrooms displayed high potential to degrade the organic micropollutants through bioremediation	Golovko et al. (2021)
<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>	Removing sulfonamides from real wastewater	Mayans et al. (2021)
<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>	Biodegradation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons like naphthalene by white rot fungus	Elhusseiny et al. (2019)
<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>	Bioremediation of soils polluted with petroleum solid wastes and drill cuttings by enzymatic processes for mobilization of carbon from both studied pollutants	Romero-Silva et al. (2019)
<b>Production of bioactive compounds</b>		
<i>Pleurotus florida</i>	Extraction of bioactive components (ascorbic acid, flavonoid content, $\beta$ -carotene, and lycopene) for antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory attributes	Bains et al. (2021)
<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> , <i>P. eryngii</i> , and <i>p. cornucopiae</i>	Study fatty acids, polysaccharides (glucans), phenolic compounds, triterpenoids (e.g., ergosterol), proteins, peptides and lectins in studied mushrooms	Cateni et al. (2021)
<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> , <i>Pleurotus djamor</i>	Extraction of some bioactive compounds from studied mushrooms to synthesize of silver nanoparticles	Martínez-Flores et al. (2021)
<i>Pleurotus pulmonarius</i>	Production of bioactive compounds like exopoly-saccharides using different agro-waste residues (Peels of plantain, mango, pineapple, groundnut shell, coconut coir and walnut husk)	Ogidi et al. (2020)
<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>	Production of bioactive compounds like laccase	Duran-Aranguren et al. (2020)
<b>Bioethanol production</b>		
<i>Pleurotus florida</i>	Lignin in cotton spinning wastes was degraded (60 %) and 80–85% of cellulose crystallinity reduced the cellulose after 14 days of pretreatment by mushrooms	Ranjithkumar et al. (2022)
<i>Pleurotus eryngii</i> ; <i>P. Florida</i> <i>P. ostreatus</i> ; <i>P. pulmonarius</i> ; <i>P. salignus</i>	Strong ligninolytic enzymes produced by <i>Pleurotus</i> spp. for agro-forestry wastes (wheat straw, maize stalks and sawdust of blackberry, oak, grapevine, raspberry, plum and apple) to produce bioethanol	Galić et al. (2021)
<i>Pleurotus pulmonarius</i>	Producing biofuel from sawdust-based mushroom substrates of soft-wood spruce or hard-wood alder	Chen et al. (2020)
<i>Pleurotus cornucopiae</i> , <i>P. ostreatus</i>	Sustainable digestate management for some crops residues like maize, and sorghum for high cultivation efficiency	Fornito et al. (2020)
<i>Pleurotus sapidus</i>	Solid-state fermentation of rice straw and husks and sunflower seed hulls myco-employed to biomass and enzyme production	Postemsky et al. (2019)

Depending on the mushroom species, the proximate composition and nutritional characteristics of mushrooms may have 84.1–61.3% of carbohydrates, 28.6–15.4% of proteins, and 3–33.3% of dietary fiber (Valverde *et al.* 2015). The protein content in mushrooms in general is higher compared to other vegetables, but less compared to meat and milk. These species are rich sources of proteins and minerals (Ca, Fe, Na, P, and K) and vitamins (B complex and C) (Lee *et al.* 2018). Additionally, the food quality may increase due to the richness of umami-taste in *Pleurotus* mushrooms (Lavelli *et al.* 2018). These mushrooms contain all the essential amino acids, including S-containing amino acids like methionine, and cysteine. *Pleurotus* mushrooms are

considered a functional food due to their higher food value, mainly because of the high content of protein, carbohydrate, minerals, and vitamins (Raman *et al.* 2021). By many researchers, extensive research on *Pleurotus* species and their nutritional and medicinal attributes has been investigated as mentioned before. The most cultivated species of *Pleurotus* genus are *P. ostreatus* (black oyster), *P. sajor-caju* (gray oyster), *P. florida* (white oyster) and *P. eous* (pink or red oyster), and, particularly, *P. florida* and *P. sajor-caju* are the most popular (Raman *et al.* 2021). The main information about the *Pleurotus ostreatus* can present in **Table 3** including the basic information about this mushroom.

**Table 3. The main nutritional and bioactive compounds of *Pleurotus ostreatus*.**

Main item	Characterization					Ref.
<b>Scientific and English name</b>						
	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> (Jacq. ex Fr.) P. Kumm and its English name is black oyster					[2]
Yield and harvesting	First harvest (19 d), yield (845.66 g kg <sup>-1</sup> ), biological efficiency (84.5 %)					[1]
Optimum temp. and growing media	21–24 °C, cultivated on straw of paddy rice, cereals including wheat, barley, maize, sugarcane bagasse, and crop residues					[2]
Occurrences	Cultivated in Africa, Australasia, and China, Korea, India, Japan, Europe, USA					[2]
<b>Contents of vitamins</b>						
	Thiamin (B <sub>1</sub> )	Riboflavin (B <sub>2</sub> )	Niacin (B <sub>3</sub> )	Folic acid (B <sub>9</sub> )	Ascorbic acid (C)	
Content (%) dw	0.32	0.58	8.72	0.052	12.52	[3]
Content, g/100 g fw	0.15	0.22	3.23	0.009	6.8-20	[4]
<b>Contents of micronutrients</b> (on basis dry weight)						
	Ca (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	Zn (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	Fe (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	Mg (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	K (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	
	260	38	15.8	900	1,950	[5]
	730	110.41	130	2,800	Not referred	[6]
	110	0.3	3.7	17.7	319.1	[7]
	1,200	61	48	1,700	30,000	[8]
	3,360	86.9	148.3	2,177	14,243	[9]

**List of refs.** [1] Jafarpour and Eghbalsaeed (2012), [2] Raman *et al.* (2021), [3] Patil *et al.* (2010), [4] Podkowa *et al.* (2021), [5] Raman *et al.* (2021), [6] Koutrotsios *et al.* (2020), [7] Kortei *et al.* (2017), [8] Golian *et al.* (2022), [9] Hoa *et al.* (2015)

### **3. Therapeutic applications of *Pleurotus ostreatus* L.**

The medicinal using of several edible mushrooms have been confirmed by many studies due to the existence of many organic compounds and antioxidants (Podkowa *et al.* 2020). *Pleurotus* species has been successfully applied as a food supplement for cardiac patients to reduce the blood cholesterol level due to their content of nicotinic acid, mevinolin, and a higher level of  $\beta$ -glucans (Raman *et al.* 2014). Several myco-chemicals could be found in *Pleurotus* mushrooms including polysaccharides, phenolic

compounds, proteins, lipids, and, terpenoids, which have beneficial effects for human nutrition and health (Cateni *et al.* 2021). The bioactive compounds and therapeutic uses of many *Pleurotus* spp. (oyster mushrooms) have been discussed in many distinguished reports such as Paul *et al.* (2017), Golak-Siwulska *et al.* (2018), Sarma *et al.* (2018), Duran-Aranguren *et al.* (2020), Bains *et al.* (2021), Cateni *et al.* (2021), Elhusseiny *et al.* (2021a, b), Martínez-Flores *et al.* (2021), Podkowa *et al.* (2021), and Raman *et al.* (2021).

This is a call by the journal of Environment, Biodiversity and soil Security (EBSS) to publish all kinds on articles about the *Pleurotus* species especially *P. ostreatus* including complete or mini-review articles, original articles, and short communications. The studied mushroom has a great nutritional and medicinal attributes, which attracted several researchers for more investigations about this mushroom and their different applications. Further studies concerning this mushroom are still needed to open new windows of research on it particularly its potential against new pandemic like COVID-19.

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