

Lysurus gardeneri



Lysurus gardeneri © Taylor Lockwood

Egg: ovoid, white, up to 30 mm diameter, with white rhizomorphs at the base. The egg remnants are seen as a volva at the base of the mature fruiting body's stem.

Fruiting body: cylindrical; consisting of 4 to 6 fluted relatively short and claw-like arms, firmly united at their tips but rarely may become free with age; the fertile portion of the arm covers the upper part of the arm and is quite shaggy in appearance, leaving the sterile base bare; a narrow, bare groove runs down the centre of the outer surface of each arm; white to pale cream.

Stipe: cylindrical; 100 – 150 × 20 - 30 mm; white or pale cream; outer wall is made up of a single row of thin walled tubes.

Smell: weakly foetid.

Spore print: olivaceous brown.

Spores: cylindric, baciliform; 4 – 5.5 × 2 – 2.5 µm; smooth.

Habitat: on forest litter, compost and wood-chip mulch in damp shady places.

Notes: *Lysurus gardeneri* can be identified by the fertile surface of its arms being quite shaggy in appearance and covering only the upper portion of the arm, leaving the base bare. The arms are also usually joined together at the top. *L. cruciatus* is identified by the fertile surface of its arms being wrinkled and running the entire inner length of the arm. Its arms are usually free at the top.

There are only six records for this fungus in Australia.

Collections: AQ0494601, Bardon, Brisbane, E. Fletcher, 7 Apr 1999.