

Macrolepiota dolichaula



Macrolepiota dolichaula © Pat Leonard

Cap: globose when young then convex; up to 125mm diameter; predominantly white, with a small buff disc at the centre when mature; covered in small floccose cream scales which rub off or are washed off by rain, margin appendiculate, with ragged edges formed from velar remains.

Stipe: cylindrical, very tall; up to 160 × 15 mm; snake skin like markings on some young specimens; glabrous when mature; white, hollow, with a bulbous base; the double ring is movable and has a large floccose skirt when fresh.

Gills: free, moderately crowded, with a single row of lamellulae of varying length intercalated with gills.

Spore print: white.

Spores: ellipsoid, 12 - 14 × 8 - 9 μm , average $14 \pm 0.6 \times 8.5 \pm 0.5 \mu\text{m}$, $Q = 1.45 - 1.6$; weakly dextrinoid, smooth, thick walled with a small germ pore.

Basidia: clavate; 4 spored.

Cheilocystidia: smooth, clavate, thin walled.

Pleurocystidia: absent.

Pileipellis: a cutis, clamp connections present.

Habitat: growing in short grassland, usually in small groups, and emerging after heavy rains in summer and autumn. Common in south east Queensland.

Notes: this very large white fungus with free gills and a movable ring is said to be readily identified in the field, but the spores need to be examined to separate it from *M. hortense* which can have a similar appearance, but has smaller (8 - 12 × 6 - 7 μm) spores and the flesh in the stem reddens when bruised.

Collections examined: PL3309, Boreen Point, 16 March 2009.