

Phallus rubicundus



Phallus rubicundus © V. Ryan

Egg: the immature fruiting body is a white, gelatinous egg-like sac, up to 30 mm diameter, with numerous rhizomorphs (root like threads) attached. The egg-like sac splits to release the rapidly expanding receptacle (fruiting body) and produces the volva (sac remnants) at the base.

Pileus: A bell-shaped, reddish cap to 38×15 mm, slightly wrinkled. It is covered by the gleba (fertile spore mass) - an olive-brown, thick slime which is cleared by visiting flies; apex perforate.

Stipe: cylindrical, or narrowing towards both ends, hollow; 150×20 mm; spongy, dry, smooth; pink to bright red; with a white volva at the base..

Flesh: spongy.

Smell: foetid, like rotting meat or sewage.

Spore print: olivaceous brown.

Spores: elongate ellipsoid; $3.5 - 5 \times 1.5 - 2$ μm , average 4.6×2 μm ; smooth, clear.

Substrate: on soil and in litter and wood chip mulch.

Habitat: occurring singly or in large groups, common and widespread in parks and gardens and in forests and woodland.

Material examined:

Notes: *Phallus rubicundus* is easily recognised by its vivid pink to scarlet cylindrical stem and conical slime-bearing cap. The considerable variation in size may be due to abundant rain and favourable conditions.