

Russula 'browning WA'



Russula 'browning WA' © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex at first becoming centrally depressed; 45 – 90 mm diameter; minutely velutinate and somewhat lubricious when wet, surface becoming reticulate at edge when older; brown (7D7) to light brown (6D6) at centre; margin entire, occasionally inrolled.

Stipe: cylindrical, sometimes hollow; 35 – 50 × 12 – 18 mm; glabrous to very minutely velutinate; white bruising brown.

Gills: subdecurrent; thick and moderately spaced; creamy white, staining brown and turning a dark brown as they dry.

Flesh: white, turning brown on exposure to air.

Taste: mild but unpleasant, nauseous.

Smell: fishy, (rubbery?) but intensifying to a strong dried fish odour when dry.

Chemical reactions: FeSO₄ on stipe: no reaction (material very wet).

Spores: ellipsoid or broadly ellipsoid; 7.3 – 9.3 × 5.8 – 7 μm, average 8.4 ± 0.5 × 6.5 ± 0.4 μm, Q = 1.16 – 1.5, average Q = 1.3 ± 0.08; amyloid ornamentation very faint, consisting of scattered small low warts and faint lines.

Basidia: narrowly clavate; 45 – 60 × 7.5 – 9 μm; 2, 3 and 4 spored.

Cheilocystidia: fusoid to clavate, scarce; 75 – 90 × 10 – 12.5 μm, with rostrate or mucronate apices.

Pleurocystidia: fusoid to clavate, intermixed with smaller pseudocystidia; 75 – 90 × 10 – 12.5 μm, with rostrate or mucronate apices and with coloured contents turning green in KOH; with short fold like lines at maturity.

Pileipellis:

Habitat: growing in small troops in Jarra Marri forest under *Eucalyptus*

Notes: this brown staining *Russula* is close to *R. sp 9*, but that has subglobose spores with much more prominent ornamentation. Only known from WA at present.

Collections examined: JF245, Dickson Road, Manjimup, WA, Richard Robinson, 11 Jul 2011, FC245, Kingston, WA, KP? 15 July 2003.