

## *Russula aff vesca*



*Russula aff vesca* © Pat Leonard

**Cap:** convex with a flat centre; to 80 mm diameter; dusky pink washing out to cream at cap edge.

**Gills:** adnate, cream to off white, anastomising.

**Stipe:** cylindrical, tapering towards base, to 60 × 20 mm, white.

**Flesh:** white, unchanging on exposure to air.

**Taste:** mild, nutty.

**Chemical reactions:** FeSO<sub>4</sub> on stipe: strong salmon; guaiac on stipe base: + positive (But needs verifying)

**Spores:** subglobose, 6.1 – 7.1 × 5.3 – 6.1 μm, average 6.8 (± 0.35) × 5.8 (± 0.24) μm, Q = 1.12 – 1.27, average Q = 1.18 (± 0.04); weakly amyloid blunt warts with a few fine connectives.

**Basidia:** clavate; 30-55 × 6-10 μm; four spored.

**Cheilocystidia:** scarce, fusoid with mucronate ends; 70 - 80 × 6-9 μm; thin walled,

**Pleurocystidia:** similar but smaller.

**Dermatocystidia:** absent.

**Pileipellis:** an epicutis of repent hyphae and cuticular hairs 60 × 5 μm

**Habitat:** Growing singly with *Nothofagus gunnii* and *Eucalyptus*.

**Notes:** This Tasmanian collection is very close to *R. vesca* in Europe, which also has cuticular hairs in the pileipellis. However, the hairs in this collection are more pronounced and the habitat and associated hosts are distinct, so it is probably a distinct but unnamed species.

**Collections examined:** PL 18307, Cradle Mountain National Park, Tasmania, Pat Leonard, 26 Mar 07.