

Russula cheelii



Russula cheelii © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex then centrally depressed; to 75 mm diameter; viscid when wet; brownish orange (5C6), brown (6E7), dark brown (6F7); margin often splitting.

Stipe: cylindrical to attenuated downwards; to 60 × 20 mm, matt white

Gills: adnate, crowded, cream; edge browning with age.

Flesh: white, mild.

Chemical reactions: FeSO₄ on stipe: salmon; guaiac on stipe base: ?

Spore print: white.

Spores: ellipsoid to subglobose, 6.4 - 8.4 × 5.7 - 7.5 μm, average 7.3 ± 0.6 × 6.45 ± 0.5, Q = 1.04 - 1.25, average 1.13 ± 0.07; weakly amyloid with low isolated warts and connectives which do not form a reticulum.

Cheilocystidia: clavate, some capitate; 50 - 60 × 5 μm.

Pleurocystidia: similar but somewhat broader, 7.5 μm on average.

Dermatocystidia: absent? Weakly staining hyphae in SV resemble lactiferous hyphae.

Pileipellis: a trichoderm with small projecting ridges.

Habitat: in small groups with *Eucalyptus* in wet and dry sclerophyll forests.

Notes: The Queensland material has significantly smaller spores than the specimen examined by Grgurinovic which measured: 7.2 - 11.4 × 6.2 - 9.2 μm, but they were within the defined range for the species. The pileipellis does appear to have dermatocystidia rather than lactiferous hyphae, so it is possible that the Queensland material represents a distinct form.

Collections examined: PL 74607, Noosa Botanic Garden, 29 Jun 2007.