

## *Russula clelandii*



*Russula clelandii* (purple form) © Katie Syme

**Cap:** parabolic then convex and finally applanate or with a central depression; 25 - 90 mm diameter; glabrous to minutely felty; dark violet to purple (14F4, 15F5), or deep blackish red purple (11E5, 11F5); margin entire but occasionally faintly striate; peeling less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

**Stipe:** cylindrical, hollow or stuffed; 40 - 55 × 12 - 20 mm; glabrous to minutely pruinose; reddish purple (14D6) surface breaking in to patches to reveal white flesh beneath, often giving a horizontally striate appearance.

**Gills:** adnate or adnexed, crowded; white to pale cream; some lamellulae present.

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

**Taste:** mild.

**Chemical reactions:** FeSO<sub>4</sub> on stipe: salmon; guaiac on stipe base: negative.

**Spore print:** pale cream (IIc).

**Spores:** ovoid to ellipsoid; 7.3 - 9.1 × 6.2 - 7.8  $\mu$ m, average 7.8 ± 0.5 × 6.9 ± 0.5  $\mu$ m; Q = 1 - 1.3, average 1.13 ± 0.09; with amyloid isolated warts and some cattenate ridges.

**Basidia:** broadly clavate; 35 - 40 × 8 - 12  $\mu$ m; thin walled; four spored; sterigmata 4-5  $\mu$ m high.

**Cheilocystidia:** narrowly langeniform to fusiform, often with a mucronate apex, thin walled, 50 - 75 × 8 - 15  $\mu$ m, protruding 20 - 30  $\mu$ m beyond basidia,

**Pleurocystidia:** similar to cheilocystidia but somewhat smaller.

**Dermatocystidia:** none present that stain in sulphovanillin.

**Pileipellis:** a complex trichderm of gelatinised ovoid cells and hyphae 2-5  $\mu$ m wide.

**Habitat:** growing singly or more often in small groups in a wide range of *Eucalyptus* dominated sclerophyll forests throughout southern and south eastern Australia.

**Collections examined:** KS2855, Nornalup National Park, Walpole, WA, Katie Syme, 5 Jun 2013; PL5509, Wallerawang, Pat Leonard, 24 May 2009; PL23509, Wallerawang, Pat Leonard, 24 May 2009; PL6509, Wallerawang, 24 May 2009.

**Notes:** Miller & Hilton first described this species from Western Australia in 1986. Their description was of the purplish vinaceous form. Bougher & Syme broadened the concept to include the violet brown forms, but noted that there seemed to be a wide range of colour variations.