

Russula sp 4



Russula sp. 4 © Pat Leonard

Cap: appanate to centrally depressed, 40 - 60 mm diameter, matt, greyish ruby (12C6) to rose (11A5) with a greyish bloom; striate to about $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the radius; peeling to about $\frac{1}{2}$ radius.

Gills: adnate, white to very pale cream; no lamellulae.

Stipe: cylindrical, slightly widened at apex, hollow; 40 - 60 × 8 - 10 mm; glabrous; pale rose pink.

Flesh: white, unchanging.

Taste: mild.

Chemical tests: FeSO₄ on stipe: salmon; guaiac on stipe base: negative.

Spore print: white.

Spores: ellipsoid; 6.5 - 8.5 × 5 - 7.5 μm, average 7.5 × 6.5 μm, Q = 1.13 - 1.29, average Q = 1.18 ± 0.05; amyloid short ridges and blunt warts to 1 μm.

Basidia: clavate; 30 - 35 × 11 - 15 μm; 4-spored; sterigmata to 5 μm.

Cheilocystidia: rare; narrowly clavate with a rostrate apex; 55 - 65 × 10 - 12 μm.

Pleurocystidia: narrowly clavate with a rostrate apex, 50 - 60 × 10 - 12.5 μm.

Dermatocystidia: none present.

Pileipellis: an irregular trichoderm with terminal hyphae 50 - 60 × 5 μm and multiseptate.

Habitat: with *Eucalyptus microcorys*, *Eucalyptus pilularis* and possibly *Melaleuca*.

Material examined: PL 41607, Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden, 14 Jun 07; PL 66607, Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden, 28 Jun 07; PL 33409, Noosa National Park, Marcus Beach section, Patrick Leonard; 10 April 2009, PL4712, Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden, Pat Leonard, 17 Jul 2012.

Notes: This distinctive ruby *Russula* seems to be common in South-east Queensland and can be readily recognised by its ruby rose colours in the cap and paler stipe and its relatively small stature. The spores are too small for it to be *R. clelandii* and both spores and colours are wrong for *R. wollumbina*.