

**Ramaria anziana** R.H.Petersen, *Bull. New Zealand Dept. Sci. Industr. Res.* 236: 104 (1988)

A.M.Young, Apr. 2014

*Fruiting body* 6–9 × 4–8 cm; *apices* yellow, light yellow, yellow-orange to apricot yellow, awl-shaped, cuspidate to short dichotomous, dry; *branches* slender, cylindrical, pinkish salmon to pale salmon-orange to near orange, surfaces smooth or (rarely) finely grooved; *axils* rounded to narrowly rounded; *stipe* 1–2 × 0.6–1.0 cm, white to pinkish cream, smooth to pruinose and with tiny vinescent areas around soil marks, single and slender or fasciculate in a false stipe and then up to 3 × 2 cm and showing internal evidence of stipe subunits, aborted branches often present. *Flesh* cream-coloured. *Odour* none; *taste* none.

*Macrochemical reactions* Petersen & Watling indicated that a drop of either KOH or NaOH turns orange when placed on cut tissues.

*Basidiospores* 7.2–10.4 × 4.0–5.0 (–6.0) μm (see below), mean 9.1 × 4.7 μm, Q: 1.6(–1.8) – 2.4, mean Q: 1.95, long oval or ellipsoid, usually with granular contents but sometimes with a single guttule, hilar appendix prominent, profile mostly appearing as finely rough; ornamentation of scattered warts and ridges which occasionally may be oriented in longitudinal ridges or lines of warts, spore wall and warts cyanophilic in cotton blue; *basidia* 52–70(–80) × 8–11 μm, mean 62.4 × 9.2 μm, 4-spored, clamps absent; *sterigmata* up to 5 μm long; *branch trama* composed of thin-walled, often inflated hyphae 4.5–16 μm diam., clamps absent; *ampulliform septa* present, 10–13 μm diam., often with delicate stalactitic ornamentation; *gleoplerous hyphae* present or not, but if present then diameter similar to tramal hyphae, often with a small swollen, bulb-like ending; *stipe trama* similar to branch trama.

*Habit*: solitary on soil amongst leaf litter. *Habitat*: cool temperate rainforest, dry sclerophyll woodland; soils variable.

*Known Distribution*: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic, Tas, SA, WA.

*Notes*: *Ramaria anziana* is one of several Australian taxa that have salmon-pink branches and yellowish apices and it is a species where microdata is probably the only way to be absolutely certain of its identity. It can be confused with *Ramaria samuelsii* R.H.Petersen however the two species can be separated as follows:

*R. anziana* has a very short and narrow stipe and tends to produce clustered clumps in which the small stipes often compress to form a compound false stipe while its spores mostly lie well under a length of 10 μm and in Australian material generally display randomly distributed warts and ridges. *Ramaria samuelsii* produces fruiting bodies with a distinct stout stipe, the spore lengths mostly lie well above 10 μm and the spores are always decorated with longitudinal/helical lines of warts or ridges.

Because *Ramaria anziana* has the same apical and branch colours as *Ramaria capitata* var. *ochraceosalmonicolor* (= *Clavaria ochraceosalmonicolor* Cleland), it was often misidentified as that taxon despite the fact that *R. anziana* does not display a compact 'cauliflower' form. (Cleland himself confused this species with what he eventually published in 1931. His earlier collections filed under "*Clavaria ochraceosalmonicolor*" were all *R. anziana* (1917–1925). The open coralloid structure of *R. anziana* immediately distinguishes it from *R. capitata* var. *ochraceosalmonicolor*.)

For those interested in some microdata, collections of *Ramaria anziana* do differ in the spore dimensions. Examination of Australian and New Zealand collections show the following general results (but always be prepared for exceptions):

Australia: 7.2–9.4 × 4–5 μm; Q: 1.54–2; mean Q: 1.84

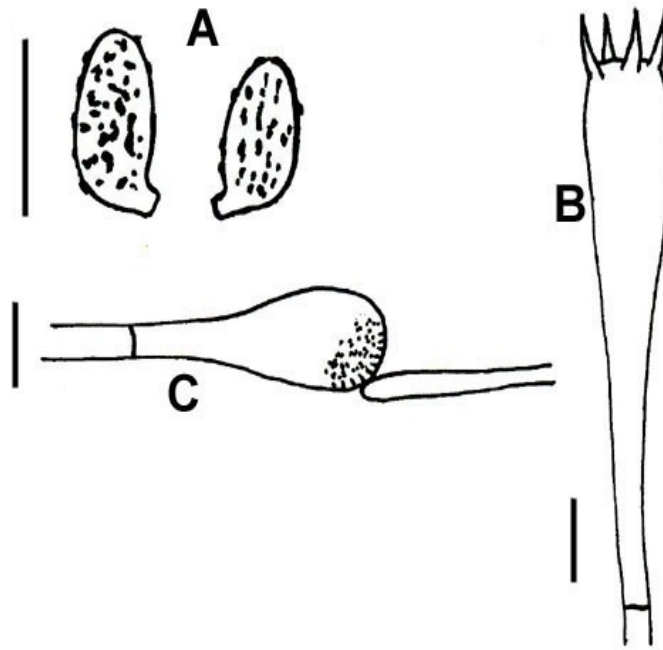
New Zealand: 8.6–10.4 × 4–5 μm; Q: 1.62–2.27; mean Q: 2.06



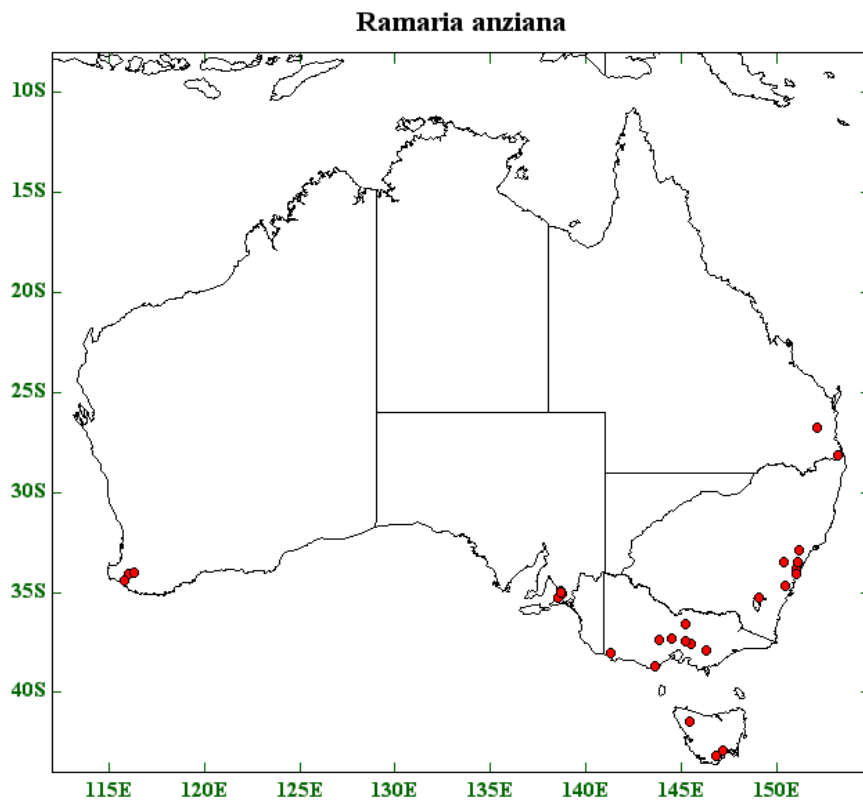
*Ramaria anziana*. This collection was made at Philosophers Falls (Tasmania) and very clearly shows the yellow, sharp pointed apices and salmon pink branches. © Katie Syme.



*Ramaria anziana*. This specimen was found in eastern Victoria and it shows the pinkish branches and yellow apices, together with aborted branches low down on the stipe. © Kevin Thiele.



*Ramaria anziana*, microdata. A. basidiospores (note warts may occasionally be arranged longitudinally); B. basidium; C. ampulliform septum. Each scale bar = 10 $\mu$ m. © A.M.Young.



*Ramaria anziana*. Known Australian distribution.

#### Acknowledgements

This document was produced from material contained in the 2007 Interim Submission (The Taxonomy of genus *Ramaria* in Australia: coralloid macrofungi) forwarded to ABRS at the cessation of the *Ramaria* project. ABRS is both acknowledged and thanked for their kindness in permitting me to make this information available to the Australian mycological community.