

Ramaria botrytoides (Peck)Corner, *Ann. Bot. Mem.* 1: 562 (1950) A.M.Young, Apr. 2014

Fruiting bodies : 8–12 × 7–11 cm, at first compact then undergoing subapical branch elongation and becoming more open coralloid then finally with long apical branchlets; *apices* coral (44) to scarlet (43) but slowly becoming pale pinkish buff (52) at late maturity, at first bluntly cuspidate with dichotomous or double dichotomous rounded endings, but then undergoing subapical elongation and producing single or dichotomous bluntly rounded apices; *branches* pale coral (44) but slowly losing all pink tints and becoming a shade of buff (52) at maturity, cylindrical, finely and abundantly longitudinally sulcate (best seen under x10 lens); *axils* round, U-shaped; *stipe* 2–4 × 1–1.5 cm, pale buff above and white below, smooth or with a little floccose material on the surface, numerous aborted branches present, cylindrical to conical, tough and deeply rooting. *Flesh* white, without colour changes. *Odour* mildly pleasant; *taste* not recorded.

Macrochemical reactions: KOH and KI both negative.

Basidiospores 7.5–10.8 × 3.5–5.5 μm, mean 9.5 × 4.5 μm, Q: 1.7–2.3, mean Q: 1.95, ellipsoid to shortly cylindrical, usually with one or two guttules, hilar appendix prominent, ornamentation of scattered warts and short ridges, spore wall and warts cyanophilic in cotton blue; *basidia* 74–92 × 6–8.5 μm, mean 83.1 × 7.3 μm, 4-spored, clamps absent; *sterigmata* –7 μm, conical, straight or a little curved; *branch trama* with gloeoplerous hyphae 2.5–5.0 μm diam., composed of thin-walled, septate hyphae 4–12 μm diam., clamps absent; ampulliform septa abundant, 12–15 μm diam., usually abundantly decorated with stalactitic ornamentation; *stipe trama* similar to branch trama; *rhizomorphs* absent.

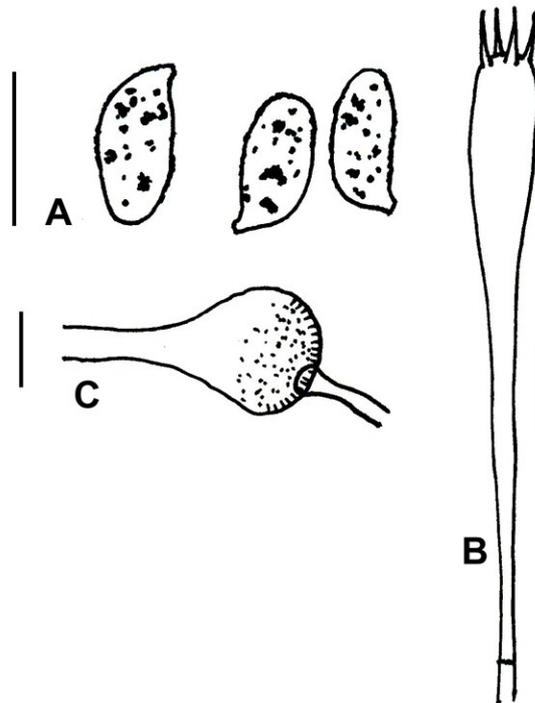
Habit: solitary or in small groups on soil amongst litter. *Habitat*: in wet eucalypt forests.



Ramaria botrytoides. A cluster of juvenile fruiting bodies just before apical and branch elongation. The fungus shows the cherry pink to reddish apices and the cream to pink tinted branches. An aborted branchlet is seen near the stipe base to the right of centre. © A.M.Young.

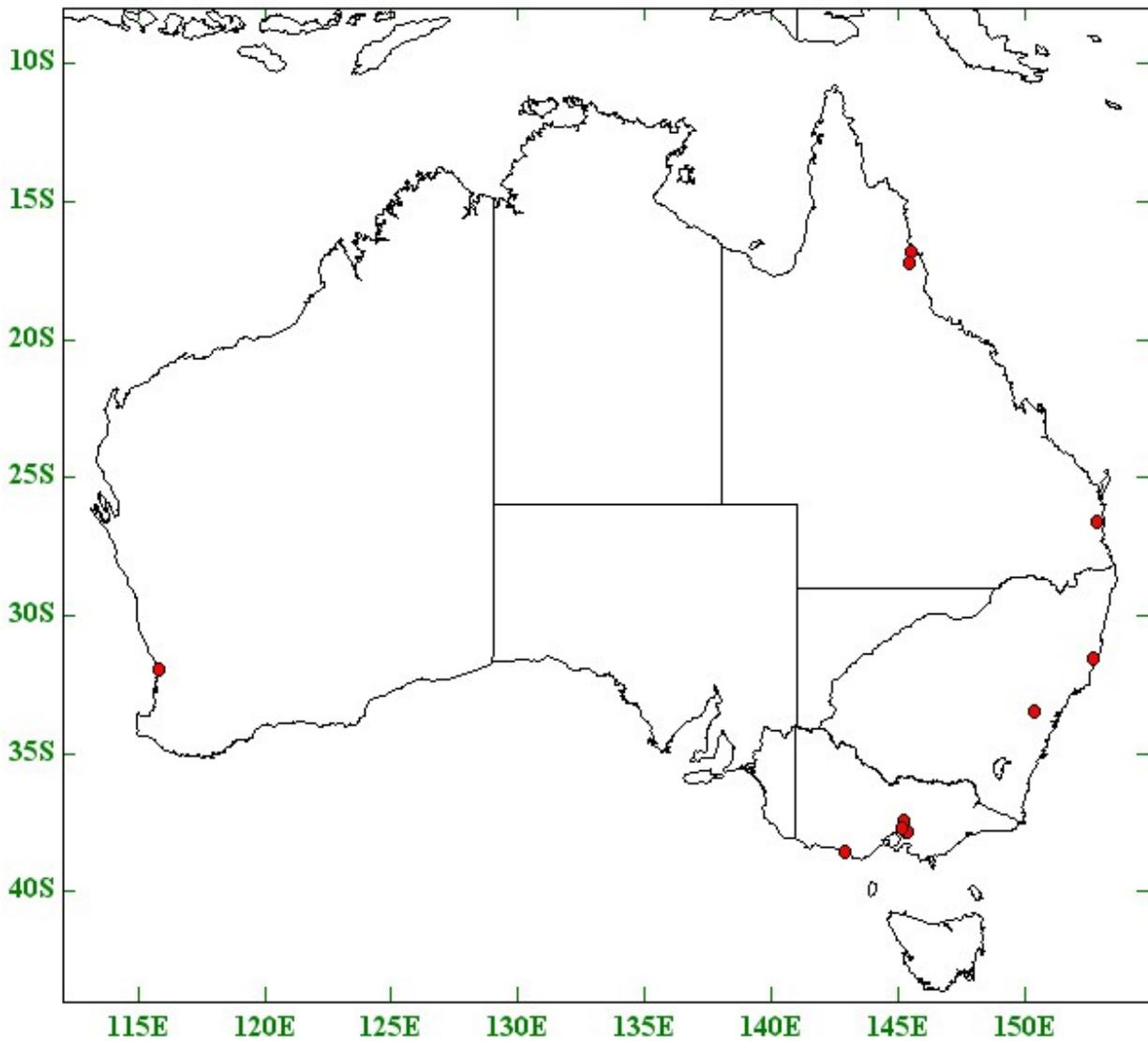


Ramaria botrytoides. A mature cluster, showing the results of branchlet and apical elongation. Some pink tints are still present, but the overall colour is now tending to ochre tints. A small cluster of juvenile fruiting bodies is seen at the front base of the mature fruiting body. © A.M.Young.



Ramaria botrytoides microdata. A. basidiospores showing randomly placed warts; B. basidium; C. ampulliform septum showing stalactitic ornamentation. Each scale bar = 10 μ m. © A.M.Young.

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Ramaria botrytoides. 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.