

Ramaria capitata (Lloyd) Corner, *Ann. Bot. Mem.* 1: 562 (1950)
var. **capitata**

A.M.Young, Apr. 2014

Fructing bodies 5–7 × 3–5 cm, has a terraced and shelf-like upper surface with individual branches then displaying the 'cauliflower floret' structure; *apices* yellow to ochre-yellow, at first appearing as small rounded hemispheric knobs which inflate to become leotiid, eventually the tips frequently fuse to form a closed layer over the branches beneath while simultaneously becoming watery, glistening and viscid or mucilaginous, but the viscosity can be transient depending upon local conditions; *branches* off-white, pale yellow or cream-coloured, finely longitudinally sulcate, major branches at first often emerging horizontally from the stipe then abruptly rising vertically; *axils* usually acute but may be narrowly rounded; *stipe* 1–2 × 1 cm, rounded, solid and often rooting, off-white, tomentose between substrate particles, aborted branches sometimes present. *Flesh* white, solid. *Odour* or *taste* not recorded. Branches and stem slowly stain brownish where bruised.

Macrochemical reactions: a 10% solution of Ferric Chloride is stated to produce a colour change when a drop is placed on fresh, cut stipe flesh, but the details are not yet known to the author.

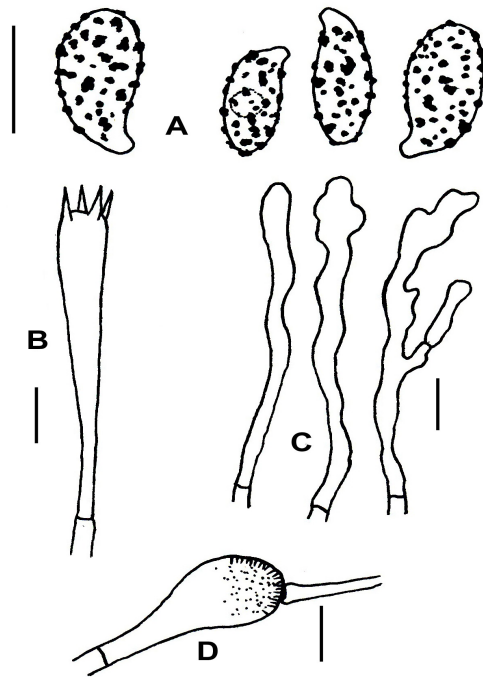
Basidiospores 8.0–15.0 × 4.0–6.0 µm; Q: 1.8–2.8; mean Q: 2.1; broadly comma shaped to cylindrical; minutely rough in profile; ornamentation of many scattered small warts and short lobate ridges; *basidia* 70–85 × 10–13 µm; without clamps; sterigmata 4, stout, curved; hymenium restricted to lateral branch surfaces, apices sterile and covered with a trichodermal palisade consisting of sinuous, clavate, hyphal elements +++ µm diam.; *stipe tramal hyphae* without clamps; hyphae 3–9 µm diam.; ampulliform septa up to 11 µm broad and either un-ornamented or with delicate stalicitic ornamentation

Habitat: dry open sclerophyll forest on gravelly soil.

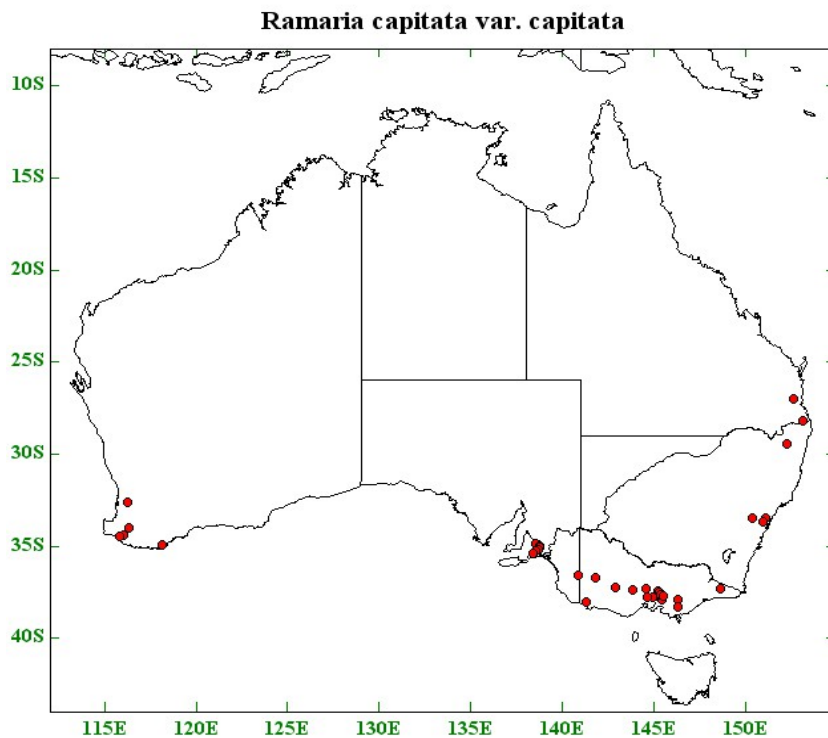
Fructing bodies more or less wholly yellow, usually with a terraced structure.....var. **capitata**



Ramaria capitata var. *capitata* showing the typical "shelf or floret" structure and the inflated and somewhat cap-like apices. Debris from the forest floor is adherent to the apices due to their viscosity. This collection was made in Western Australia. © R. Robinson.



Ramaria capitata var. *capitata* microdata. A. basidiospores; B. basidium; C. hyphal elements from the trichodermal palisade which at first covers the apices; D. ampulliform septum. Each scale bar = 10 μ m.
 © A.M.Young.



Ramaria capitata var. *capitata*. 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.