

Ramaria capitata (Lloyd) Corner, *Ann. Bot. Mem.* 1: 562 (1950)
var. **ochraceosalmonicolor** (Cleland) A.M.Young & N.A.Fechner.

A.M.Young, Apr. 2014

Fructing bodies 5–7 × 3–5 cm, exhibits an extremely compact and very distinctive ‘cauliflower-like’ 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, viscosity either absent or extremely transient; *branches* salmon pink, finely longitudinally sulcate, major branches may emerge horizontally from the stipe and then abruptly rise 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 given.

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 unornamented or with delicate stalicitic ornamentation

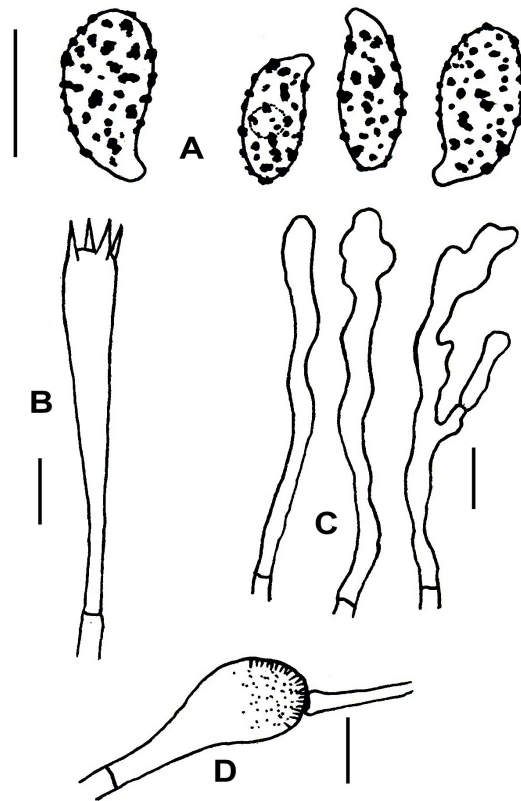
Habitat: known from dry open sclerophyll forest on gravelly or sandy soil.

Fructing bodies with salmon pink branches, usually with a compact cauliflower structure; a Tasmanian collection shows bright reddish tints on all parts of the fructing body.....var. **ochraceosalmonicolor**



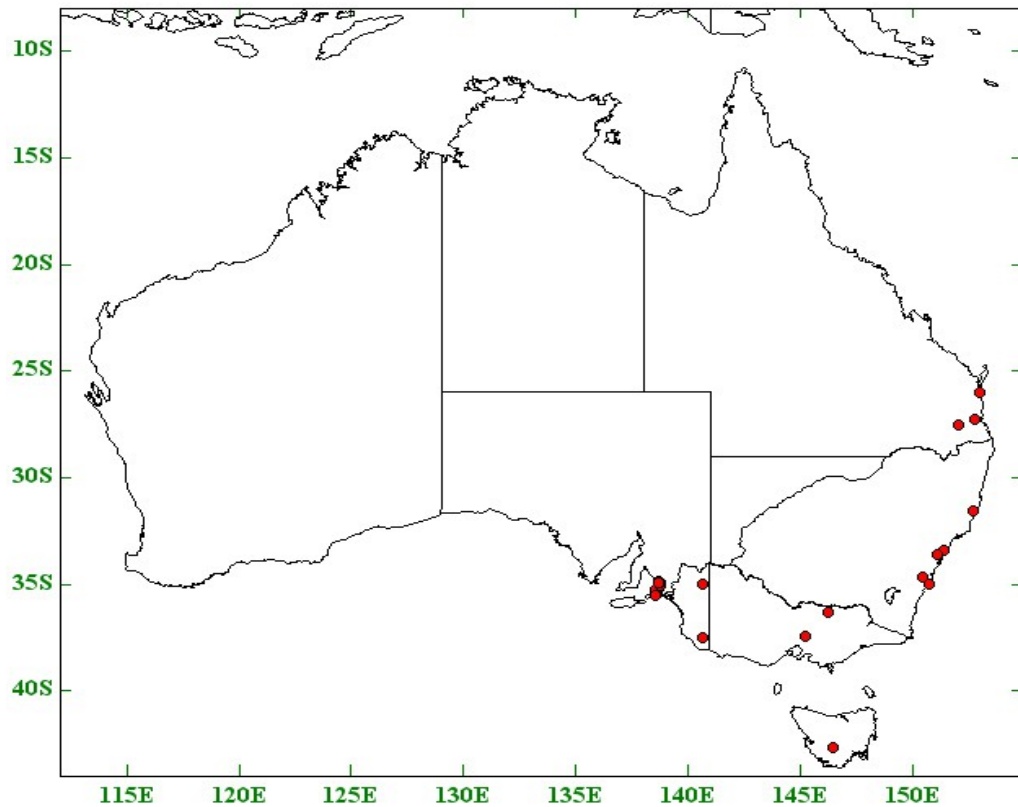
Ramaria capitata var. **ochraceosalmonicolor**: This collection from the Blue Mountains of New South Wales shows the compact and "cauliflower-like" structure that was emphasised by Cleland when he first described the species from South Australia in 1931 and is also emphasised in the watercolour produced by Miss R. Fiveash [illustration in Cleland (1935) "Toadstools and Mushrooms and other Larger Fungi of South Australia", Part 2, p265, incorrectly labelled as *Clavaria australiana*]. The above image clearly shows the ochre-yellow and swollen apices, but only "suggests" in the image on the right that the branches may have a pink tint. Unfortunately, no field image showing the above structure is currently held by the author.

There have been many misinterpretations of this species, but a good general rule to diagnose this species is that from vertically above the fructing body, the branches cannot be seen because of the closed surface of the massed apices. If the structure is open coralloid, the branches can be seen and the fungus is not var. **ochraceosalmonicolor** © A.E.Wood (image used with permission).



Ramaria capitata var. *ochraceosalmonicolor* 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. *ochraceosalmonicolor



Ramaria capitata var. *ochraceosalmonicolor*. Known Australian distribution.



This beautiful variety was found in Tasmania and is only known from this image; it is possible that no material is held. It appears to be *Ramaria capitata* var. *ochraceosalmonicolor* but with wholly cherry pink colours except for the stipe base. © G.Gates.

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.