

**Ramaria samuelsii** R.H.Petersen, *Bull. New Zealand Dept. Sci. Industr. Res.* 236: 110 (1988)

A.M.Young, Apr. 2014

*Fruiting body* 3–8 × 3–5 cm, *apices* at first bright yellow but then fading to paler yellow and weakly vinescent when bruised, rounded at the tips and double dichotomous to cuspidate, dry; *branches* wholly delicate pink to salmon-pink but may become ochre tinted with age as the spores mature, ±cylindrical, surfaces usually longitudinally grooved; *axils* round to narrowly round; *stipe* 1.0–2.0 × 0.5–1.0 cm, stout but not massive, white becoming pinkish superiorly and weakly brunnescent when bruised, smooth to finely pruinose, aborted branches present. *Flesh* of stipe white and of branches orange-yellow. *Odour* weakly fragrant; *taste* weakly bitter. *Rhizomorphs* absent.

*Macrochemical reactions* According to Petersen (1988), a drop of either 10% NaOH or KOH on cut stipe flesh produces a carrot orange discoloration, while a drop of Ferric Chloride quickly produces a forest green discoloration.

*Basidiospores* 8.6–12.6 × 4.3–5.8 μm, mean 10.1 × 4.9 μm, Q: 1.7–2.3, mean Q: 2.05, broadly ellipsoid to elongate-ellipsoid, uniguttulate or granular, hilar appendix prominent and truncate, ornamentation of low warts and ridges that are longitudinally or slightly helically arranged in striations, profile very finely rough; *basidia* 70–86 × 8–11 μm, mean 73.0 × 9.4 μm, 4-spored, clamps absent; *sterigmata* up to 10 μm long, distinctly long-conical and curved; *trama* composed of thin-walled, often inflated hyphae 6–13 μm diam., clamps absent; *ampulliform septa* present, ~13 μm diam., often with stalactitic ornamentation; gleoplerous hyphae not observed.

*Habit*: gregarious on soil amongst humus or leaf litter. *Habitat*: in eucalypt woodland or forest.

*Known distribution*: NSW, Vic.

*Notes*: *Ramaria samuelsii* displays considerable variation in spore size. Although most Australian collections have spore sizes which fall in the range of the above description, individual collections with a spore range of 7.9 – 13.7 × 4 – 7.2 μm may be encountered. The species has often been misidentified as *Ramaria ochraceosalmonicolor* (Cleland) Corner (= *R. capitata* var. *ochraceosalmonicolor*) and this is understandable given that both species have pinkish branches and yellowish apices. Unfortunately, the name of *Ramaria ochraceosalmonicolor* was employed as a “catch-all” identification for any taxon with pinkish branches and yellow apices - a procedure which ignores the inflated apices and closed surface of *R. ochraceosalmonicolor* in favour of its similar colour combination.

*Ramaria samuelsii* can also be confused with *R. anziana* however the larger, generally longitudinally striate spores of *Ramaria samuelsii* are distinctly different from the smaller, generally randomly warted spores of *R. anziana*. In addition, *R. anziana* produces a false stipe comprised of the fasciculate and adpressed lower branches and slender stipes of several basidiomata and has an open coralloid structure, whilst *R. samuelsii* produces a distinct and stout stipe and tends to produce a more vertically oriented fruiting body.

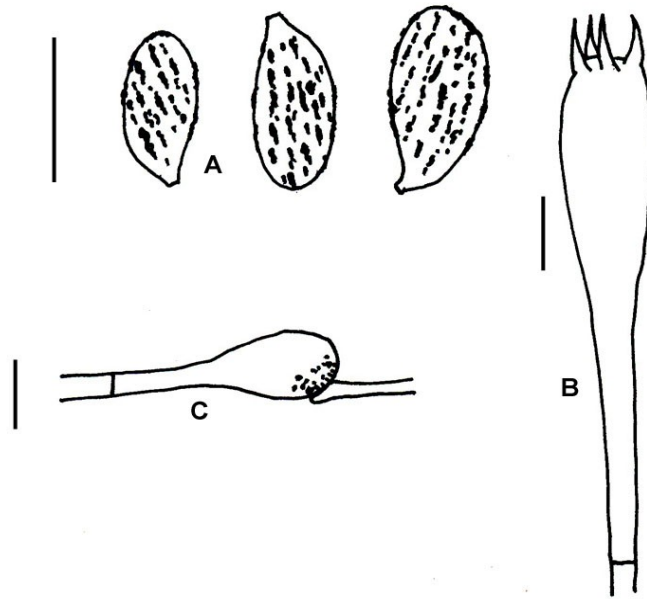
This is a New Zealand species that also occurs in Australia and there is some need for more recent collections with additional photographic and field data.



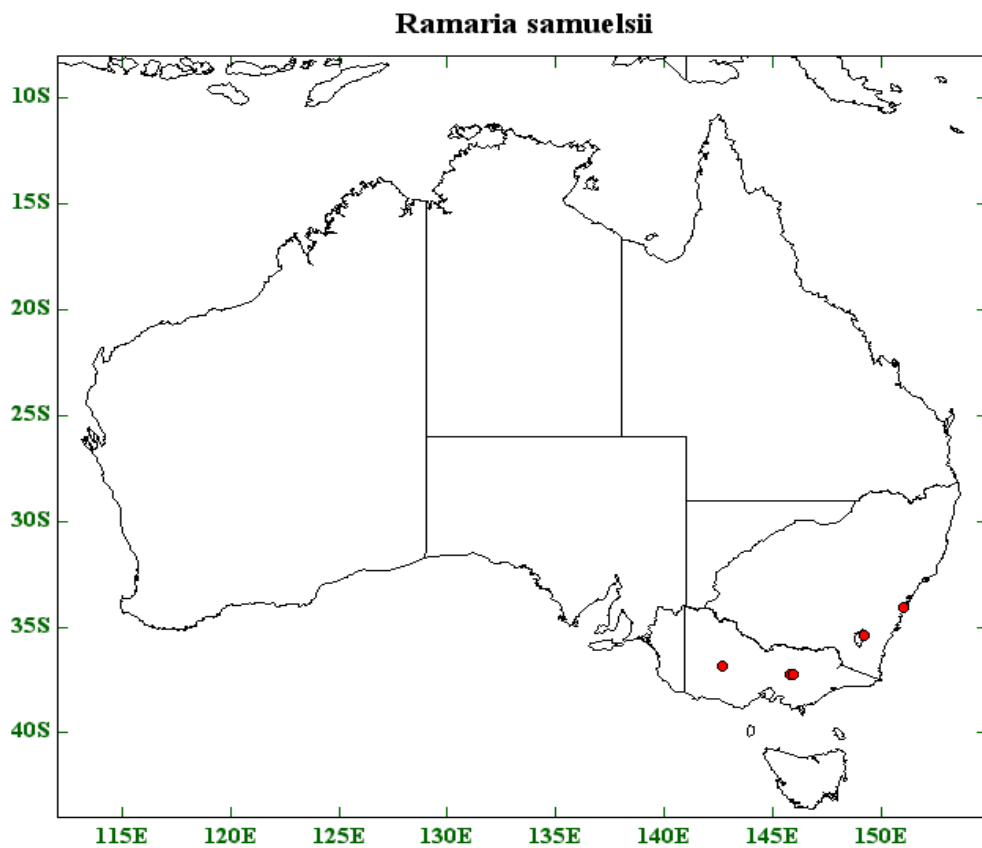
*Ramaria samuelsii*. These specimens (laboratory setting) were collected from the Royal National Park, NSW. The yellowish and cuspidate apices are still visible, the branches are clearly salmon pink and some longitudinal grooving is just visible. The "U"-shaped axils are very distinctive and in the upper branches these become much narrower and "V"-shaped, although the base of the V is still rounded. The stipe is clearly stout and some aborted branches are visible. © A.E.Wood



*Ramaria samuelsii*. This collection was made in Victoria and clearly shows the vertical orientation of the salmon-pink branches, the yellow apices, and the compact habit. Careful inspection shows that the branches are also very finely longitudinally grooved. Some basal aborted branches are just visible. © Kevin Thiele



*Ramaria samuelsii*, micro-details. A. basidiospores; B. basidium; C. ampulliform septum. Each scale bar = 10 $\mu$ m. © A.M.Young.



*Ramaria samuelsii*. 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.