

## *Agaricus aff augustus*



*Agaricus augustus* © Pat Leonard

**Cap:** convex; up to 140 mm diameter; white background covered in small darkening red brown scales, centre entire red brown; margin appendiculate.

**Stipe:** cylindrical to subclavate, hollow; 90 - 110 × 12 - 25 mm; with a membranous floppy ring up to 30 mm wide, 0.6 up stipe; white above and sometimes with brown floccules below; glabrous white above ring, small squamules below, concolourous with cap; conspicuous white rhizomorphs attached to stipe base.

**Gills:** free, pink then gradually brown; lamellulae present in two series.

**Flesh:** white, becoming yellow brown on bruising and eventually orange brown.

**Smell:** strongly agaricoid, of aniseed.

**Spores:** dark brown to black; ellipsoid, 5.6 – 9 × 3.7 – 6.5 µm, Q = 1.47 ± 0.13, somewhat thick walled, no germ pore.

**Cheilocystidia:** numerous, clavate; 17.5 × 5 µm.

**Pileipellis:** a cutis with groups of emergent hyphae forming the scales.

**Habitat:** saprotrophic, common in groups in gardens, parks and at woodland edges in the bush, seemingly in disturbed and nitrogen rich places.

**Notes:** a large *Agaricus* with a squamulose cap, a smell of aniseed, and flesh which slowly yellows on handling (note that rapidly bright yellow reactions suggest a member of the *Xanthodermi*) define this fungus. Although it has been widely collected in Queensland under this name, the lack of cattenate cystidia and smaller spores suggest it is distinct from the European species.

**Collections examined:** PL 49408, Buderim garden, 12 April 2008; PL28613, Marcus Beach Section, Noosa National Park, Pat Leonard, 23 June 2013; John Oxley Reserve, Murrumba Downs, 3 Jul 2015.