

Agaricus xanthodermus



Agaricus xanthodermus © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex, often truncately conical at first (conical with a flat top); 50 – 120 mm diameter; glabrous but becoming minutely squamulose with age; white to cream coloured; margin appendiculate.

Stipe: cylindrical to clavate; 40 – 150 × 10 – 30 mm; glabrous; white; yellowing strongly when scratched on lower stipe; annulus glabrous white, thickened at outer edge, persistent.

Gills: free, moderately crowded; pinkish grey at first becoming dark brown with age.

Flesh: white, yellowing, bright yellow in base of stipe, but yellow colour soon fading to brown.

Smell: strong and unpleasant smell of carbolic.

Spore print: dark brown.

Spores: dark brown; 4.5 – 6.5 × 3.5 – 5.5 μm , average 5.8 ± 0.5 × 4.2 ± 0.4 μm , Q = 1.15 – 1.45, average Q = 1.35 ± 0.5; broadly ellipsoid, without a germ pore.

Basidia: cylindrical to narrowly clavate; 15 – 20 × 6 – 7; four spored.

Cheilocystidia: sphaeropedunculate to clavate.

Pileipellis: a regular cutis of hyphae 6 – 9 μm wide.

Substrate: soil and manure.

Habitat: appears to favour grassland edges with trees. In parks and gardens, on roadside verges and in well manured pastures; in litter beneath *Melaleucas*.

Notes: The yellowing reaction in the stipe combined with the carbolic smell and the flattened apex of the cap when young, make *A. xanthodermus* easy to recognise. It can cause gastric upsets, sometimes severe, but does not affect everyone.

Collections examined: PL1412; Point Cartwright, Sunshine Coast, Pat Leonard, 2 Apr 2012.