

Cortinarius australiensis



Cortinarius australiensis © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex; 75 – 180 mm diameter; glabrous and shiny, sometimes cracking; white; margin entire with a few veil remnants adhering when young.

Stipe: cylindrical at apex with a bulbous centre and a rooting base; 90 – 150 × 40 – 60 mm; glabrous and white at apex; with a pendulous fibrillose ring on the upper part of the bulbous centre, stained rusty brown by the spores; rooting base irregular and chalky white.

Gills: sinuate; crowded, pale brown; with a single series of lamellulae.

Flesh: firm, white, unchanged on exposure to air

Spore print: orange brown, rusty brown.

Spores: amygdaliform; 10 – 13 × 5.5 – 7 μm, Q = 1.8; ornamented strongly with small warts.

Basidia: cylindrical to narrowly clavate; 40 – 50 × 7 – 11 μm; four spored.

Pleurocystidia: absent.

Pileipellis: a cutis of repent filamentous hyphae ± 4 μm wide.

Substrate: soil.

Habitat: dry sclerophyll forest with *Eucalyptus andrewsii* and *Callitris*.

Collections examined: PL31312, Mt Norman Track, Girraween National Park, Pat Leonard, 24 Mar 2012.

Notes: This large white *Cortinarius* could readily be mistaken for an *Agaricus* when viewed from above, but the rusty brown spores on the ring and its peculiar shaped stipe reveal its identity. It is readily recognised in the field. It is reported that it varies greatly in size.

