

Cortinarius persplendidus



Cortinarius persplendidus © Sapphire McMullan Fisher

Cap: hemispherical at first becoming plano-convex in mature specimens; 17 - 45 mm diameter; vivid red to red brown; dry with fine radial fibrils and an in-rolled margin at first.

Stipe: broadens towards the base, 50 - 70 × 10 - 20 mm, pale orange brown with vivid red at apex and orange yellow zone at base; the cortina forms a zone of yellow brown fibrils about $\frac{3}{4}$ way up the stem; mycelial threads attached to the base of the stem are yellow to orange.

Gills: adnexed, closely spaced and vivid red. A drop of 3% KOH placed on the gills will bleed violet or reddish violet colour.

Spore print: red brown.

Spores: broadly ellipsoid, 7 - 8 × 6 - 7.5 μ m, yellow-brown, verrucose and thick walled.

Substrate: soil.

Habitat: forests and woodlands including *Melaleuca* swamp forest under *Corymbia*.

Frequency: rare (SEQ).

Notes: one of a group of bright red-gilled species, it is distinguished by its strongly warty spore characteristics; formerly known as *Dermocybe splendida*.

Collections examined: AQ796240, Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden, Pat Leonard, 7 Jul 2008.