

Cystolepiota aff icterina



Cystolepiota aff icterina © Sapphire McMullan-Fisher

Cap: Umbonate to campanulate; 7 - 25 mm diameter; pale yellow (3A7) at edge, mustard (4A7, 4B7) at centre on umbo; surface covered in detachable mustard granules, margin granular appendiculate.

Stipe: cylindrical; 35 × 3 - 6 mm; lower 2/3rds covered in mustard yellow granules as cap, few granules near apex giving a ring zone appearance in some specimens.

Gills: adnexed; cream with a yellow tone; moderately crowded.

Flesh: white in cap; creamy buff below.

Spore print: white.

Spores: ellipsoid; 3.8 - 5 × 2.4 - 3.9 µm, average 4.5 + 0.29 × 2.9 ± 0.36 µm, Q = 1.07 - 1.81, average 1.2 ± 0.2; distinctly dextrinoid; some fused in clusters of 2 and 4.

Cheilocystidia: absent.

Pileipellis: surface of ovoid disarticulating cells; 35 - 50 × 25 - 35 µm; forming the granular surface; an intricate trichoderm below of divergent and irregular hyphae 5 - 15 µm wide.

Habitat: growing in sand amongst *Callistris* needles in Wallum heathland.

Notes: This small yellow fungus looks very like a *Cystoderma* and is relatively easy to recognise. The dextrinoid spores do however suggest that this might be a *Cystolepiota* and the dextrinoid reaction combined with spore size accord well with the rare European species *Cystolepiota icterina*. Our collections are more robust than that described and illustrated for this species by Candusso (1990) and do not have yellow flesh in the stipe (?). When Lange (1935) described the species he placed it in *Rhodophyllus* apparently on account of its angular spores, a character certainly not present in our collections. At present it seems safest to consider this as a new species. Its habit of growing in needle litter is very akin to *Cystoderma* species.

Collections examined: SMF 2332, Noosa National Park, Marcus Beach section, 4 Jun 08; PL 55309, Noosa National Park, Marcus Beach section, 22 Mar 2009.