

Ganoderma australe



Ganoderma australe © Carol Tucker

Cap: perennial bracket, broadly attached to substrate; 100 - 600 mm diameter and 10 - 90 mm thick; upper surface irregular with undulations and occasionally knobbly, sometimes faintly concentrically zoned, margin white when fresh.

Stipe: absent.

Pores: white; round; 5 - 6 pores per mm; pore surface often flat and horizontal to the ground; turning brown when scratched.

Flesh: hard, woody, dark brown but white in pore structure.

Smell: fungoid.

Spore print brown, red brown.

Spores: ellipsoid with a truncate end; $9 - 11 \times 6 - 8 \mu\text{m}$; with thick walls which have cross septa; faintly warty; spores produced in great quantities, often coating the surrounding ground in a brown dusty mass.

Hyphal system: generative hyphae hyaline and thin walled, skeletal and binding hyphae brown and thick walled; all septa appear to have clamps.

Habitat: on the trunks of living and dead trees, usually restricted to relatively old and substantial trees and fruiting from the base to several meters above the ground. Also found on large logs.

Collections examined:

Notes: *G. australe* cannot readily be distinguished in the field from the closely related *G. applanatum*. The latter has smaller spores ($7 - 8 \times 4.5 - 6 \mu\text{m}$). The great majority of records in Queensland are said to be of *G. australe*, although Hood records that both species are present in the state.