**Hydnellum auratile**

**Cap:** rosette like, irregular, concrecent; 30 - 60 mms diameter; scaly at center, silky shiny and radially fibrillose towards margin; light brown at the centre, pale greyish brown outer half; margin undulate.

**Stipe:** multiple eccentric, flattened; 10 - 25 × 2 - 4 mm; velutinate; pale brown; base somewhat swollen.

**Spines:** usually decurrent, crowded, tapering, about 2 mm long; pale grey brown becoming tawny to purplish brown.

**Flesh:** pale yellowish brown, firm.

**Spore print:** brown.

**Spores:** ellipsoid, irregular; 4 – 4.5 × 3.5 - 4 μm, Q = 1.2; ornamented with flat topped warts (tubercules).

**Cheilocystidia:** not seen.

**Pileipellis:** structure not seen, but clamp connections present.

**Habitat:** found in a large group wet sclerophyll forest growing in litter deposited by flood waters. Sticks and grass shoots growing through the caps.

**Notes:** the pale brown outer surface with a scaly cap centre, a velutinate pale brown stem, and concrecent fruiting bodies define this rather rare fungus. Although this fungus keys out in Maas Geesteranus, it is in a group that is notoriously difficult to determine. The colour of the spines differs from his description and from those of European collections as does the habitat and associated species.

**Collections examined:** LG 41, Linda Garrett Reserve, Mapleton, Queensland, Wayne Boatwright, 13 Jun 2015.