

Hymenopellis atrocaerulea



Hymenopellis atrocaerulea © Ross Tait

Cap: convex; 50 mm diameter, dark brown to sepia (9F4, 9F3); glabrous; rugulose, margin long inrolled, viscid when wet.

Stipe: ventricose; 85 × 4-5 mm; white with brown towards base, distinctly swollen at ground level; strongly radicating base; glabrous, hollow.

Gills: adnexed with a strong decurrent tooth, white, thin, crowded.

Flesh: thin, 2-4 mm depth, white, unchanged by exposure to air.

Spores: white, globose; 13 - 15 × 12 - 14.5 μm; Q = 1.01; thick walled; with guttules.

Basidia: clavate, thick walled; four spored, 50 × 12.5-15 μm.

Cheilocystidia: narrowly lageniform to almost hair like; 40 - 60 × 5 - 10 μm, forming largely sterile edge to gill.

Pleurocystidia: scarce, narrower than the cheilocystidia.

Pileipellis: globose to clavate hyaline cells with brown intracellular pigment in supra pellis over a confused, gelatinised subcutis structure.

Habitat: found in rain forest dominated by a canopy of *Araucaria bidwillii*.

Notes: The almost globose spores and four spored basidia in the Queensland specimens suggest that this collection is likely to be distinct. Petersen does not list any other species with globose spores and a blueish grey cap for Australia. The collection looks somewhat like the *Xerula* illustrated by Marie Taylor for New Zealand.

Collections examined: QMS P19, Paradise Falls Track. Bunya Mountains National Park, Ray Baxter, 28 March 2009.