

Lactarius aff lignyotus



Lactarius aff lignyotus © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex at first, soon becoming centrally depressed, papillate; 50 – 65 mm diameter; velutinate; very dark brown (8F5) to almost black; rugulose; margin scalloped or not.

Stipe: tapering to base, hollow; 40 – 45 × 10 mm; velutinate, rugulose at apex; much paler brown than cap, whitish at base.

Gills: decurrent; distant; white; two series of lamellulae; interveining present.

Flesh: white.

Milk: white, mild.

Spore print: white:

Spores: globose; 8.2 – 10.6 × 8.2 – 9.8 μm , average 9.5 ± 0.6 × 9 ± 0.05 μm , Q = 1 – 1.21, average Q = 1.05 ± 0.05; amyloid ornamentation of low ridges forming a reticulum.

Basidia: clavate; 65 – 75 × 8 – 10 μm ; four spored.

Cheilocystidia: narrowly clavate; 70 – 80 × 9 – 11 μm ; hyaline, not brown; gill edge not completely sterile.

Pleurocystidia: no macrocystidia, paracystidia numerous, as cheilocystidia.

Pileipellis: a trichoderm of short, septate, brown upright cells.

Substrate: in sand.

Habitat: under a stand of *Eucalyptus* on the edge of a forest dominated by *Melaleuca* and *Allocasuarina*.

Notes: the very dark cap colour contrasting with white distant gills and a papilla are all distinguishing features of this fine looking *Lactarius*. The moderately large globose spores confirm its identity. It is not however the same as the Northern Hemisphere *L. lignyotus* differing in its host, spore size and ornamentation and paler stem colours.

Collections examined: PL51413, Arthur Harold Reserve, Cooloola, Great Sandy National Park, Pat Leonard, 12 Apr 2013.