

Lactarius 'austropiperatus'



Lactarius 'austropiperatus' © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex becoming centrally depressed with age; 55 - 90 mm diameter; smooth, dry, minutely velutinate; white to cream, slightly darker towards the centre and often with ochre stains; margin inrolled.

Stipe: cylindrical, often tapering; 35 - 55 × 12 - 30 mm; flesh very firm, solid; white, dry, smooth.

Gills: sub-decurrent; very crowded; some forked; cream to buff.

Flesh: white, very firm.

Milk: white, fairly copious; not reacting when mixed with KOH.

Taste: very acrid.

Chemical reactions: FeSO₄ on stipe: salmon.

Spores: subglobose to globose; 6.9 – 8.3 × 5.2 – 6.9 μm, average 7.4 ± 0.4 × 6 ± 0.4 μm, Q = 1.06 - 1.46, average Q = 1.23 ± 0.1; ornamented with weakly amyloid warts and low ridges joined by fine lines to form an incomplete reticulum.

Basidia: subclavate; 40 - 45 × 7 - 10 μm, mainly four spored.

Cheilocystidia: abundant, fusiform, many with a mucronate apex; 50 - 75 × 8 - 10 μm.

Pleurocystidia: numerous, similar to cheilocystidia.

Pileipellis: a thin cutis of narrow hyphae overlaying larger irregularly ovoid cells.

Habitat: found in rainforest with *Nothofagus moorei* in the Lamington National Park, and with Eucalypts in wet sclerophyll forest.

Notes: The spores of this collection are slightly smaller and more globose, than the European *L. piperatus* which generally has clavate cystidia lacking mucronate endings. More material is needed to determine whether the Queensland species is distinct.

Collections examined: LNP 535, Lamington National Park, Tony Young, 4 Apr 02; PL43411, Underground Creek Track, Girraween N.P., Ronda Warhurst, 16 Apr 2011; PL44313, Mapleton Falls National Park, Blackall ranges, Pat Leonard, 9 Mar 2013.