

Lactarius leonardii



Lactarius leonardii © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex; 40 – 105 mm diameter; velutinate; dark brown (7F6, 8F6), margin inrolled in younger specimens.

Stipe: tapering towards base, hard; 20 – 40 × 8 – 18 mm; velutinate; dark brown (7F6) with a pale cream base.

Gills: decurrent or subdecurrent; cream, bruising pink which then browns; with lamellulae intercalated in 1 or 2 series.

Flesh: thin, firm, cream.

Taste: mild.

Milk: scarce, watery with white cloudy contents.

Chemical reactions: FeSo₄ strong green then brown.

Spore print: white.

Spores: ellipsoid; 7 – 9.9 × 6 – 8.1 μm, average 8 ± 0.8 × 7 + 0.4 μm; Q = 1 – 1.3, average 1.1 ± 0.09; ornamentation of low amyloid warts and ridges forming a weak reticulum.

Basidia: clavate; 30 – 40 × 7 – 10 μm; sterigmata very short.

Pleurocystidia: fusiform to clavate; 40 – 50 × 8 – 10 μm.

Cheilocystidia: narrowly lageniform; 35 – 50 × 3.5 – 6 μm.

Pileipellis: a trichoderm.

Habitat: singly or in small groups in sand in a somewhat disturbed section of wooded dunes with *Allocasuarina littoralis* and *Eucalyptus*.

Notes: this species can be recognised in the field by the combination of a dark brown velutinate cap and stipe and cream decurrent gills that bruise pink.

Collections examined: PL137310, Arthur Harold Reserve; Noosa North Shore; Great Sandy National Park; Pat Leonard, 25 Mar 2010; PL43413, Arthur Harold Reserve; Noosa North Shore; Great Sandy National Park; Pat Leonard, 12 Apr 2013.

