

Lactifluus clarkeae



Lactifluus clarkeae © Pat Leonard

Cap: irregularly convex becoming centrally depressed, 50- 90 mm diameter, covered with felted fibrils, margin in-rolled when young, orange to greyish orange (6B6).

Stipe: cylindrical, 20 – 40 × 15 – 20 mms, matt, concolourous with cap,

Gills: adnate; pale white to cream, with brown spotting where latex has dried; lamellulae present as a single series.

Flesh: white, firm, thick; unchanging on exposure to air.

Milk: white, taste mild.

Macrochemical reactions: FeSO₄ on stipe slowly green.

Spore print: white.

Spores: cream, subglobose to ellipsoid; 6.0 – 7.4 × 5.2 – 6.3 μm, average 6.55 ± 0.55 × 5.9 ± 0.35 μm, Q = 1 - 1.3, average 1.1 ± 0.07; amyloid ornamentation of isolated verrucae or with a few verrucae joined by fine ridges.

Basidia: narrowly clavate; four spored; 55 – 75 × 6 – 9 μm.

Cheilocystidia: numerous, fusoid, thin walled, 85 – 115 × 6 – 8.5 μm; mostly with rounded apices, occasionally mucronate.

Pleurocystidia: numerous, fusoid, thin walled, 65 – 105 μm; mostly with rounded apices, occasionally mucronate.

Pileipellis: a trichoderm made up of thick-walled hyphae.

Habitat: in small groups under *Eucalyptus* in wet sclerophyll forest.

Notes: the bright orange to apricot orange fruit bodies that exude white milk and with flesh that stains green in ferrous sulphate make this fungus relatively easy to identify.

Collections examined: AQ161208, Obi Obi track, P. Leonard, 11 Dec 2008, PL 59408, Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden, 19 Apr 08; PL22608. Central Station, Fraser Island, 25 Jun 08; PL40312, Mt Norman Track, Girraween National Park, Pat Leonard, 24 Mar 2012.