

Lactifluus mea



Lactifluus mea © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex becoming centrally depressed; 30 – 50 mm diameter; glabrous, rugulose, matt; dried apricot at first becoming rust, rusty tawny or brick; margin entire, somewhat in-rolled at first.

Stipe: cylindrical; 25 × 10 mm; glabrous, white to pale cinnamon.

Gills: adnate to subdecurrent; crowded; buff; bifurcating; lamellulae absent.

Flesh: firm, buff, becoming pale pink on exposure to air and on bruising.

Milk: hyaline with white milky suspended floccules; staining gills brown.

Taste: mild.

Chemical reactions: FeSO₄ on stipe: green.

Spores: cream; subglobose; 7.7 – 9.6 × 7 – 9.2 μm; average 8.8 ± 0.55 × 8.1 ± 0.65 μm, Q = 1.01 – 1.23, average Q = 1.09 + 0.07; ornamented with amyloid warts and broad ridges joined by fine connectives to form a lax reticulum.

Basidia: more or less cylindrical; 50 – 65 × 8 – 10 μm.

Cheilocystidia: narrowly fusiform with a mucronate apex; very thick walled; 70 – 85 × 8 – 11 μm; moderately dense.

Pleurocystidia: numerous, thick walled; lanceolate to fusiform; 75 – 90 × 8 – 11 μm; some with dextrinoid contents; a few with mucronate apices.

Pileipellis: an oedotrichoderm with interwoven narrow hyphae over a layer of irregular inflated cells. Dermatocystidia absent.

Habitat: dry woodland with *Eucalyptus*, *Syncarpia* and *Allocasuarina*.

Notes: this rust to pale apricot *Lactifluus* is very brightly coloured and it should be easy to recognise in the field. Recorded under the European name *Lactarius volemus* by some early mycologists.

Collections examined: PL14411, Yidney scrub, Fraser Island, Bill Egerton, 3 Apr 2011; PL18411, Yidney scrub, Fraser Island, Pat Leonard, 3 Apr 2011; PL33411, Tully Park, Girraween, Pat Leonard, 17 Apr 2011.