

## *Macrocybe crassa*



*Macrocybe crassa* © Pat Leonard

**Cap:** convex; 40 – 180 mm diameter; glabrous, shiny; creamy white, but becoming mid brown in the centre and cracking to expose white flesh beneath; margin entire.

**Stipe:** cylindrical or bulbous but irregular; solid, hollow or stuffed; often curved, usually caespitose with 6 to 10 fruiting bodies joined at base; 80 – 150 × 25 – 40 mm; innately striate and cream coloured, covered in white powdery floccules.

**Gills:** adnexed to almost free; crowded; cream to pale peach; lamellulae numerous in four or occasionally more series, often irregular, crinkled.

**Flesh:** thick, white; heavy, whole fruit body weighing up to 4 kg.

**Smell:** strong, mealy, mushroomy.

**Spore print:** pale cream.

**Spores:** ellipsoid; 4.9 - 6.6 × 4.1 – 5.3 µm, average 6 ± 0.4 × 4.65 ± 0.4 µm, Q = 1.14 – 1.52, average Q = 1.29 ± 0.12, smooth, thin walled, inamyloid.

**Basidia:** narrowly clavate; 35 – 45 × 6 – 8 µm; with oily contents; three or four spored.

**Pleurocystidia:** none seen.

**Pileipellis:** a trichoderm of hyphae 5 – 8 µm wide with some swollen apices; clamps present.

**Substrate:** soil, possibly manured ground.

**Habitat:** in grass, paddocks and roadside verges; little seems to be known about its ecology.

**Collections examined:** PL10312, Forest Glen roadside, Buderim, Queensland, Pat Leonard, 11 Mar 2012, PL21114, Buderim garden, P.Leonard, 12 Nov 2014..

**Notes:** this very large whitish mushroom that grows in caespitose clumps and develops a brown cracked centre to the cap is easy to recognise in the field. It appears to be only known from a few collections Queensland.