

## *Marasmius haematocephalus*



*Marasmius haematocephalus* © Sapphire McMullan Fisher

**Cap:** campanulate (bell-shaped); up to 10 mm diameter; minutely velutinate; maroon, deep red to purple or sometimes bright pink; with a sulcate-striate margin.

**Stipe:** cylindrical, wiry; 20 – 60 × 0.5 - 1 mm, darker than cap in colour - black at the base and deep red towards apex; there is a basal disc of mycelial threads at its insertion to the substrate.

**Gills:** free to adnexed and distant; up to 14 complete gills and some partial gills; white with a reddish margin.

**Flesh:** very thin, tough.

**Taste:**

**Spore print:** white.

**Spores:** subfusoid; 10.5 - 20 × 3 - 5  $\mu\text{m}$ , average  $14 \pm 1 \times 3,7 \pm 0.4 \mu\text{m}$ , average  $Q = 3.7$ ; thin walled, inamyloid.

**Basidia:** clavate; 25 – 30 × 6 – 7.5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; four spored.

**Pleurocystidia:** numerous, clavate with opaque contents.

**Pileipellis:** a hymeniderm composed of broom cells with maroon coloured siccus type excrescences.

**Habitat:** Fine twigs and leaves on rainforest floor and in parks and gardens and wet woodlands.

**Notes:** There are a number of similar *Marasmius* species, which may have more gills and different sized spores. They are distinguished by microscopic features. This identification closely follows Pegler's 1986 description of material from Ceylon.

**Collections examined:** AQ795588, Mary Cairncross Reserve, Maleny, Sapphire McMullan Fisher, 11 Feb 2011.