

Omphalotus nidiformis



Omphalotus nidiformis © Sapphire McMullan Fisher

Cap: convex at first but soon developing a central depression to become funnel shaped; 50 - 150 mm diameter; dry, smooth, cream-coloured with the centre turning brown as it matures; margin often irregular, lobed.

Stipe: tapering towards base, often eccentric, often with several joined together (caespitose), 50 – 75 × 10 – 35 mm, dry, cream coloured to almost white.

Gills: deeply decurrent (running down the stem), cream coloured, some forking near stem.

Flesh:

Spore print: white.

Spores: ellipsoid, 6.5 – 10.5 × 4.5 – 8 µm; smooth, inamyloid.

Basidia: clavate, 32.5 – 42.5 × 6 – 9 µm, four spored.

Pleurocystidia: absent, but pseudocystidia with appendages numerous along lamellae edge.

Pileipellis: an epicutis of repent hyphae

Habitat: in a wide range of forests and plantations, most commonly on *Eucalyptus* but also on *Pinus* and other tree species.

Notes: readily recognised when luminescent, it is also easy to spot in daytime through its centrally depressed cream cap with a brownish centre, its white decurrent gills and its habit of growing in clumps on living and dead trees. It is toxic to humans but clearly a good food source for insects and giant landsnails which can be seen on it when it is luminescing at night.

Collections examined: AQ796316, Obi Obi Track, Montville, Pat Leonard, 21 Jan 2003.