

Phylloporus bellus



Phylloporus bellus © Pat Leonard

Pileus: irregular in outline, more or less convex with flat to slightly depressed centre; 40 – 140 mm diameter; tawny orange with no distinct zones, except where cracking and then showing cream to yellow flesh, (blackening due to damage?) not fibrillose, but cracking leaves reticulate pattern.

Stipe: attenuated downwards or almost equal; 85 × 21 mm; pale brown darkening with age; relatively smooth but not very firm, fibrillose structure discernable.

Lamellae: adnate to subdecurrent; yellow brown, cyanescent on bruising, margin dark brown, veined on face and lamellules distinctly wrinkled.

Flesh: near white, pink flush under pileus cuticle, cyanescent adjacent to lamellae; pale or yellow flush in flesh above lamellae.

Spores: subfusiform; 13.5 - 14 × 4.8 - 5.7 μm, average 13.8 × 5.2 μm; honey-coloured (in KOH); lacking apical differentiation.

Basidia: elongate-clavate; 32 × 8 – 7 μm; 4-spored; slightly honey-coloured.

Cheilocystidia: vesiculose, sometimes with an apical broad snout, only slightly protruding; 8 – 9 μm broad.

Pleurocystidia: very thin-walled, cylindric-clavate, hyaline, 75 - 85 × 12.5 – 14 μm narrowed to 8.7 μm below.

Pileipellis: a trichoderm of cylindric tawny to dark honey-coloured hyphae 8.7 – 13 μm broad adhering together in clumps to form erect columns and with shortened torpedo-shaped end-cells.

Notes: a very beautiful fungus with a tawny-orange cap and clear yellow gills should be easy to recognise. However, the collection illustrated does not entirely match Watling and Gregory's description, nor that in Corner, the pale stipe being distinctive.

Material examined: BRIP 10280, St Lucia, Brisbane, R. Jones, 14 Jan 1966; BRIP 10281, Burleigh Head (National Park), L. Bevege, 6 Feb 1973.