

Piptoporus australiensis



Piptoporus australiensis © Pat Leonard

Cap: fan shaped or flabellate, often with overlapping lobes; 60 - 100 mm wide by up to 130 mm long; minutely felty, surface uneven, folded; dark orange (6A6) when young, fading to peach when mature; margin often down turned or slightly in-rolled.

Stipe: short, lateral, broadly oval; not clearly defined as it usually has pores beneath; a paler colour than cap; hard.

Pores: rounded to slot like; cream; 1 - 2 per mm.

Flesh: firm, but easily cut when fresh; chalky or leathery when mature; reddish orange when fresh, paler layer above pores, exudes clear or orange liquid.

Smell: very strong and distinctive, of fenugreek or curry.

Chemical reactions: KOH on flesh nil.

Spore print: white.

Spores: ellipsoid; $6 - 8 \times 3 - 4 \mu\text{m}$; hyaline and not reacting with Melzer's solution.

Habitat: on old dead *Eucalyptus* stumps and dead or dying trees, often high in the canopy.

Notes: This polypore is clearly distinguished by its orange cap, cream pores and strong smell of curry, even when dried; it is common in Victoria, but there are not many records as yet in Queensland.

Collections examined: GPE 11009, Egerton Nature Reserve, Montville, Gretchen Evans, 26 Oct 2009.