

Polyporus badius



Polyporus badius © Patrick Leonard

Cap: circular or flabelliform; up to 150 mm diameter; azonate; glabrous, smooth or rugose on drying; upper surface light chestnut brown (9D7) to dark blackish brown, often darker in the center;

Stipe: centrally or laterally stipitate; black and minutely tomentose at base, chestnut brown and glabrous at apex, up to 50 mm thick.

Pores: decurrent on stipe; pore surface white to pale buff; circular to angular, 5 - 8 per mm; context pale buff, azonate.

Flesh: tough, leathery to corky; up to 15 mm thick; tube layer white when young, becoming slightly darker than context, up to 1 mm thick,

Smell: none.

Spore print: white.

Spores: cylindric; $7.5 - 9 \times 3.3 - 5 \mu\text{m}$; hyaline, smooth, negative in Melzer's reagent.

Cheilocystidia: lacking; fusoid cystidioles present, $17 - 19 \times 5 - 7 \mu\text{m}$, simple-septate at the base; hyphal pegs usually present.

Hyphal system: di- to trimitic; contextual generative hyphae thin-walled, simple-septate, $3-5 \mu\text{m}$ in diam, inconspicuous in mature specimens; contextual skeletal hyphae thick-walled, aseptate, $2 - 7 \mu\text{m}$ in diam, with occasional branching; contextual skeletal-binding hyphae thick-walled, aseptate, with dendroid branching to narrow tapered tips, $3-5 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter.

Habitat: growing singly or in small groups on fallen logs.

Collections examined: no collections at BRI. The specimen photographed above was found in Queensland.

Notes: This red brown *Polyporus* with a short black stipe is relatively easy to recognise. It is relatively common in southern Australia.