

Polyporus squamosus



Polyporus squamosus © Pat Leonard

Cap: rounded-oval, lid-shaped to flabellate; up to 500 (800) mm across and 10-50 mm thick; smooth and slightly glutinous with concentric adpressed scales; yellow to ochre-yellow or greyish cream, scales darker.

Stipe: lateral, 30 - 100 mm long and 10 - 60 mm thick, narrower toward the base and dark brown- to black-tomentose.

Pores: irregularly angular-oval, 0.5-1 pores per mm, cream-colored to pale yellow, pore layer not detachable from pileus, up to 10 mm thick, subdecurrent onto the stipe and there reticulate.

Flesh: leathery, tough, white to cream-colored, taste and odor farinaceous.

Smell: mealy.

Spores: cylindrical to narrowly oval; $11 - 15.5 \times 4.5 - 5.5 \mu\text{m}$; hyaline, with drops.

Cheilocystidia: none seen.

Hyphal system: dimitic, generative hyphae thin-walled, hyaline, 1.5 - 3.5 μm thick, septa with clamps; sclerotized binding hyphae thick-walled and branched, hyaline, 2-8 μm thick, sparsely septate.

Habitat: saprophytic and parasitic on hardwoods in rainforest.

Collections examined: PL31112, Fullview Crescent, Buderim, Pat Leonard, 28 Nov 2012.

Notes: This large and beautiful polypore is easy to recognize. It usually grows as a wound parasite on living trees, sometimes up as far as the crown of the tree. When young it is considered edible.