

Polyporus tuberaster



Polyporus tuberaster © Georg Muller

Cap: convex when young, then plane to somewhat infundibuliform, circular or flabellate; 30 - 100 (120) mm diameter and 10 - 15 mm thick; upper surface adpressed-squamose, scales sometimes arranged somewhat concentrically, pointed and often with dark tufts of hairs at the tips, yellow- to orange-brown with somewhat ochre ground color, scales darker, margin undulating, sharp, fringed-ciliate, slightly inrolled when dry.

Stipe: cylindrical, with sclerotium at base, 10 - 60 × 5 - 15 mm, flesh white, elastic, soft.

Pores: decurrent far onto the stipe; 0.5 – 2 × 0.5 - 1 mm, tube length 1 - 4 mm; cream-colored to yellowish, pores rounded to elongated, tube mouths denticulate.

Flesh: soft, elastic.

Smell: fungoid.

Spore print: white.

Spores: cylindric-elliptic; 12 - 15 × 4 - 5 µm; smooth; hyaline, with drops.

Cheilocystidia: not seen.

Hyphal system: dimitic; generative hyphae thin-walled, some slightly inflated, 2.5 - 8 µm across, septa with clamps; binding hyphae conspicuous only in the stipe, thick-walled, little branched, 1.5-4 µm across; hymeniform hyphal outgrowths toward the base of the stipe.

Habitat: On dead wood of broadleaved trees.

Collections examined: reported from Queensland but only collected from Victoria.

Notes: Ryvarden states that this fungus has been misunderstood for a long time. The fruiting body apparently arises from an underground sclerotium, however, formation of fruiting bodies is also possible without a sclerotium. It is recognized by the polygonal and strongly decurrent pores and large spores and the presence of a sclerotium at the base of the stipe.