

Polyporus varius



Polyporus varius © Pat Leonard

Cap: more or less centrally depressed, often umbilicate; to 40 mm diameter; finely felted, areolate; background colour pale brown, felted tufts darker brown and dark grey brown at centre, concentrically zoned, margin undulating.

Stipe: irregularly knobby but more or less cylindrical; 10 -15 × 8 – 10 mm; velutinate; black, grey black; insititious, firmly attached to substrate..

Pores: subdecurrent; white to cream; pores very small and dissepiments thick; 6 – 7 pores per mm; bruising red brown on scratching.

Flesh: very thin at cap margin, white, bruising red brown on exposure to air.

Smell: strong; pleasant.

Spores: not seen, a few ellipsoid spores appear to be an artefact.

Basidia:

Pleurocystidia: absent.

Pileipellis: structure appears to be dimitic with generative and binding hyphae, the latter branching at their ends.

Substrate: on a dead stump of an unidentified tree, possibly *Allocasuarina*.

Habitat: wet sclerophyll forest with *Eucalyptus* and *Allocasuarina* present.

Notes: This species does not key out readily in Hood or Quanten. It appears quite distinctive with the colours somewhat brighter than the Northern Hemisphere equivalent which also lacks the umbilicate cap. May be a distinct species.

Collections examined: PL12412, Linda Garrett Forest, Mapleton National Park, Pat Leonard, 16 April 2012.