

Strobilomyces sp 4 Watling and Gregory



Strobilomyces sp 4 © Pat Leonard

Pileus: convex then plano-convex; 30-35 mm diameter; dark grey-black, velvety or suede-like throughout, plush and soft, becoming stippled with age from separating turf showing white flesh beneath.

Stipe: 40 × 5 mm (-7.5 mm at base), central, almost white at apex, greyish brown or brownish black downwards, soft from greyish woolly threads, darkening on handling.

Flesh: reddening throughout darker in stipe-base finally totally blackish.

Spores: 9 - 10.5 × 7.7 - 9.5 μm, subglobose to globose with pale-coloured irregular thin wings on the surface connecting irregular ± pointed reticulum which collapse to become more rounded and then similar to a dried walnut, subreticulate.

Basidia: 4-spored, 33 × 12.5 μm with sterigmata 5.5 μm long.

Pleurocystidia: inflated with apical papilla; 30 - 42 × 13 - 14 μm.

Cheilocystidia: forming a strong ridge, almost all ampulliform often with a very fine long neck -16.5 × 4 μm and tapered or obtuse head, or even slightly subcapitate.

Pileipellis a mixture of smooth to slightly asperulate hyphae, in chains of sausage-shaped cells with end-cells rounded or slightly tapered to become torpedo-shaped, relatively thick-walled with a few, 'glassy' silvery, flexuous, filamentous, poorly septate hyphae undulating through the section, lacking pigment strands, not strongly differentiated into zones.

Habitat: on bank side, margin of eucalypt forest.

Collections examined: Wat. 11003, Pennant Hills, Sydney, NSW, R. Watling, 8 Apr 1974.

Notes: Watling states that, although superficially similar in macroscopic characters to *Strobilomyces* sp. 3, with which it was confused in the field, this basidiospore morphology is considered distinct enough for the time being to keep the two separate. The pileipellis is less coloured and has much less distinct scales and the spores are consistently although marginally smaller.

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