

Volvariella speciosa var *gloiocephala*



Volvariella speciosa var *gloiocephala* © Megan Prance

Cap: applanate with a small central umbo; to 120 mm diameter; radially fibrillose; pale brown with a darker brown centre.

Stipe: clavate; 170 × 20 mm; glabrous; white; with a large white saccate volva.

Gills: free, starting white, becoming a very dark pink as the spores mature; lamellulae present.

Flesh: white, thin.

Taste: mown hay?

Chemical reactions:

Spore print: deep pinkish brown;

Spores: ellipsoid; 10.5 – 18 × 7 – 10 µm; Q – 1.7; smooth; thick walled.

Basidia: clavate, four spored.

Pleurocystidia: langeniform, 30 – 45 × 10 – 15µm; cheilocystidia similar.

Pileipellis: a cutis composed of quite wide (7 – 10 µm) hyphae.

Habitat: growing singly in very rich humus where a tree stump has rotted, it also grows in stubble where cereal crops are grown organically.

Notes: This very large fungus, has a pale brown cap, dark pink free gills, a long white stipe and a white volva. It can be confused with *Amanitas* but is readily separated by its pink spore print.

Collections examined: PL26410, Cunningham's Gap, Megan Prance, 6 April 2010.