

Amanita aff rubescens



Amanita aff rubescens © Pat Leonard

Cap: broadly convex; to 80 mm diameter; glabrous, pinkish buff, reddish grey (9C4), with an olivaceous tint when young, darker towards the centre, pink at margin; velar remnants crumb like pyramids, cream at base and brown at apex; margin not appendiculate.

Stipe: cylindrical, expanding downwards to a strongly bulbous base; 70 × 20 mm; squamose; rubescent, pink; ring pendulous from apex of stipe to 1/3rd down, striate, pink, with a double edged margin; bulb with two cartwheel-like edges at its apex; base rooting.

Gills: adnexed; white, crowded, no lamellulae.

Flesh: pale pink, unchanging.

Spore print: white.

Spores: broadly ellipsoid; 7.2 – 8.8 × 5.6 – 7.2 μm, average 8 ± 0.4 × 6.2 ± 0.4 μm, Q = 1.13 – 1.41, average Q = 1.3 ± 0.08; amyloid, smooth.

Basidia: broadly clavate; 35 – 45 × 6.5 – 9 μm; two, three and four spored.

Pleurocystidia: not seen.

Pileipellis: a cutis; velar remnants composed of hyphae 5 – 8 μm wide and oblong and cylindrical cells 40 – 80 × 12 – 25 μm, very variable in shape; clamps not observed.

Substrate: sand and sandy soils.

Habitat: wallum, dry heathland that is seasonally flooded, dominant species are *Melaleuca* and *Banksia*.

Notes: this fungus looks very like the northern hemisphere *Amanita rubescens*, but is clearly not that. It is not in Reid or in Wood's treatment of *Amanita* in Australia.

Collections examined: PL16413, Coolum Section, Noosa National Park, Pat Leonard, 8 Apr 2013; PL 750317, Ben Bennett Park, Wayne Boatwright, 18 Mar 17 .