Auricularia delicata var obscura

Macrocharacters: fruit bodies soft rubbery gelatinous; dark brown to almost black; sessile to substipitate; reniform to semicircular; up to 50 mm diameter by 1 - 2 mm thick; pileus minutely tomentose to almost glabrous, with fine hyaline hairs; hymenium conspicuously meruloid to porose reticulate, with veins a greyish colour and the hymenium surface reddish to pinkish cream; unlike A. delicata, this fungus is not transluscent.

Microscopic characters: pileus made up of densely compacted gelatinised hyphae with thick walled cuticular hairs 150 - 180 × 5 - 7 μm, with rounded tips; basidia 40 - 45 × 4 - 5 μm, cylindrical, with 3 transverse septa; spores allantoid with 2 - 3 prominent oil globules, 10 - 13 × 5 - 6 μm.

Habitat: growing in gregarious or caespitose groups, on logs in rainforest.

Collection: PL3314; Clarks Farm, Bellthorpe, Glenda Walters, 12 March 2014.

Notes: This fungus is readily recognised by its reticulate to poroid grey coloured veining on the hymenium and a very dark brown to almost black cap.