

*Auricularia delicata* var *obscura*



*Auricularia delicata* var *obscura* © Pat Leonard.

**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 translucent.

**Microscopic characters:** pileus made up of densely compacted gelatinised hyphae with thick walled cuticular hairs  $150 - 180 \times 5 - 7 \mu\text{m}$ , with rounded tips; basidia  $40 - 45 \times 4 - 5 \mu\text{m}$ , cylindrical, with 3 transverse septa; spores allantoid with 2 - 3 prominent oil globules,  $10 - 13 \times 5 - 6 \mu\text{m}$ .



**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.