

Austroboletus occidentalis



Austroboletus occidentalis © Pat Leonard

Pileus: convex when young, pulvinate then plano-convex; 55-170 mm diameter; soft, minutely to distinctly tomentose, rough-velvety then scaly; ochraceous to pale sienna (6B5) with rust-colour showing beneath; margin appendiculate.

Stipe: clavate or swollen above an irregular or pointed base with swelling just at soil-level; 60-120 × 15 – 25 mm; white at apex, smooth or with small reticulations, or raised lines but strongly reticulate ochre or bright sienna lacunae towards base; with copious white mycelium and white rhizoidal strands.

Tubes: whitish then clay pink or pale vinaceous; pores concolorous.

Flesh: white with faint clay pink tinge in pileus, bay under cortex, luteous in stipe especially where damaged by grubs.

Smell: none; tastenone, not bitter.

Spores: phaseoliform; 12.3 – 17.3 × 4.6 – 6.2 µm, average 15 ± 1.43 × 5.6 ± 0.4 µm, Q = 2.2 – 3, average Q = 2.66 ± 0.28; smooth or very minutely verrucose.

Basidia: clavate; 20 – 25 × 10 – 12 µm; four spored.

Pleurocystidia: cylindrical, elongate or lageniform; 50-55 × 8.25-9.5 µm, quite short, hardly breaking the surface of the hymenium.

Pileipellis: with erect, open, long, filamentous, cylindrical hyphae forming zone c. 300 µm deep, septate, tawny orange hyphae 7- 9.5 µm broad.

Habitat: in an old stand of *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah).

Collections: PL920415/NDR53, North Dr Roberts, Girrawean National Park, Megan Prance, 11 Apr 2015; Mount Norman Track, Girrawean National Park, Pat Leonard, 2012.

Notes: distinguished from *A. lacunosus* by larger size, the much darker colours of the cap and dry matt texture.