

Calvatia lilacina



Calvatia lilacina © Ray Baxter

Cap: fruiting body consists of a gleba (head) and stalk, the fruit body resembles an inverted pestle; the head is ± 90 mm diameter; globose to pyriform; smooth at first, but upper surface breaking up to reveal a powdery spore mass; white with a lilac tint at first, then browning to finally develop a dark purplish brown (14E4).

Stipe: More or less cylindrical, 90×70 mm; dark purplish brown at maturity, with glabrous surface which is pitted or rugulose towards the base; rooting and with distinct rhizoids.

Flesh: a distinct diaphragm separates the purplish brown powdery gleba from the spongy cellular tan to brown flesh in the stipe.

Spores: purplish sepia in mass but appearing brown in water under the microscope; globose, warty; $5 - 8 \mu\text{m}$; without pedicels.

Habitat: growing in soil amongst deep litter in a full canopy Bunya (*Araucaria bidwillii*) forest, but also reported from pasture and parkland habitats.

Notes: The pestle shape, large size and dark purplish brown colouration make this fungus unmistakable. Tony Young reports that the spores have a pedicel, but this was not observed in either of the specimens collected.

Collections examined: QMS P22, Paradise Falls Track, Bunya Mountains National Park, Ross Tait, 28 Mar 09