

Cantharellus viscosus



Cantharellus viscosus © Sapphire McMullan Fisher

Cap: convex and with a flattened top when young, becoming applanate to centrally depressed with an irregular surface, 30 - 55 mm diameter; viscid when wet; orange (5A8), pale apricot to pale orange (5A3), margin in-rolled at first, becoming lobed at maturity.

Stipe: cylindrical, tapering towards base; 35 - 50 × 4 - 10 mm; coloured as cap, firm solid flesh.

Gills: deeply decurrent, not true gills but rather folds in the spore bearing surface; anastomising (splitting), inter-veined, pale apricot.

Flesh: firm, up to 12 mm thick, pale orange (5A3) to occasionally almost white.

Spores: ellipsoid, thin walled, a very few with a central constriction, 6.8 - 7.6 × 4.7 - 5.8 µm; very weakly amyloid; granular contents reported by others not evident in Qld collections.

Cheilocystidia: none.

Pleurocystidia: none seen.

Pileipellis: a somewhat irregular cutis.

Habitat: seems to grow in soil under heavy litter, often with only a small portion of cap visible, in quite large groups, after heavy rain, but not in flooded sites.

Notes: this pale apricot, fleshy fungus with deeply decurrent gills which anastomise, is readily recognised in the field. A number of colour variations are reported from elsewhere in Australia, including pink and cinnabar red forms. So far only the apricot form has been seen in South East Queensland.

Collections examined: PL 2309, Nursery Road, Pomona State Forest, 16 Mar 2009.