

Cortinarius archeri



Cortinarius archeri © Sapphire McMullan Fisher

Cap: convex at first, becoming flat and can be medium to large with a diameter between 40 – 150 mm. The surface is glutinous to viscid when young and a violaceous purple colour, drying out and becoming browner with age.

Stipe: is solid and cylindrical, 60 – 80 × 10 – 20 mm. It is usually somewhat paler than the cap, particularly the portion at the apex above the veil. The remains of the cobweb-like veil or cortina form a ring about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up the stem, it too becomes rusty coloured from the spores.

Gills: a beautiful pale lilac at first, but rapidly become stained a rusty brown by the spores.

Flesh:

Spore print: rusty brown.

Spores: amygdaliform, verrucose and 11.5 – 14.5 × 6 – 7 μm .

Basidia: clavate but with uneven sides, 30 – 40 × 8 – 11 μm , four spored.

Pleurocystidia: absent.

Pileipellis: a cutis of repent hyphae (with clamp connections?)

Habitat: growing in soil amongst litter in both wet and dry sclerophyll forests.

Notes: There are at least three related species which can only be separated by careful microscopic examination and measurement of the spore size. This spectacular fungus is usually seen in small groups in native forest.

Collections examined: AQ7951167, near Central Station, Fraser Island, Roy Halling, 5 Jun 2009.