

Phillipsia subpurpurea



Phillipsia subpurpurea © Pat Leonard

Fruit body: a concave or flattened disc, more cup shaped when young; 20-60 mm in diameter; smooth, reddish-purple becoming reddish brown as it ages.

Under surface: white to pale cream, with minutely woolly texture.

Stem: more or less central; 8-12 × 3-8 mm, that is wider than it is tall.

Flesh: firm and white except for the upper disc surface.

Spore print: white.

Spores: 8 spores per ascus; 25 – 30 × 12 – 13.5 µm; with 4–6 longitudinal bands per spore, when mature.

Substrate: dead wood.

Habitat: rainforests.

Frequency: occasional.

Notes: This fungus is readily recognised because of its large cups or discs with burgundy coloured centres and the contrasting pale undersides. Found on hard dark wood in rainforests.

Other superficially similar red centred cups or discs like *Sarcoscypha coccinea* may be distinguished through their coloured (as opposed to pale) under surface. This species was first described from Bailey's collection made near Brisbane in 1884.