

Plectania campylospora



Plectania campylospora © Pat Leonard

Fruit body: a deep cup 40 – 80 mm diameter and up to 60 mm deep; smooth, shiny inner surface; dark brown to black; cup margin is paler and roughened to almost dentate.

Under surface: matt, darker than the inside and minutely roughened, often with ridges and folds.

Stem: central, robust and firmly attached to substrate, 5 - 15 × 10 – 20 mm; matt and dark coloured like under surface with ridges and folds continuing down the stem.

Flesh: outer flesh dark, tough and rubbery and inner flesh grey-brown with a firm gelatinous texture.

Spore print: white.

Spores: ellipsoid to allantoid; 20 – 32 × 9 – 13.5 µm; 8 per ascus, smooth.

Substrate: decaying wood including logs and other organic matter.

Habitat: rainforests and wet eucalypt forests.

Frequency: occasional.

Notes: This cup fungus is relatively large, dark brown to almost black. It may be recognised by its firm distinctive ridges and folds on the under surface, the gelatinous texture and it usually grows on wood. There may be other *Plectania* species, but the ridged and folded under surface and stem make this genus distinctive from other dark cup fungi. Seldom recorded and seemingly at the northern end of its distribution in south-east Queensland.