

Pycnoporus coccineus



Pycnoporus coccineus © Pat Leonard

Cap: broad fan shaped bracket; sometimes fusing to form a long shelf; 30 - 50 mm radius; dry; smooth to slightly zoned; orange to scarlet when fresh, eventually fading to off-white, and sometimes becoming covered with green algae; with a thin edge.

Stipe: has a broad lateral attachment, which may be the full width of the fan.

Pores: tiny; 3 - 4 per mm and 1 - 3 mm deep; concolourous with upper surface, and retaining its colour after the upper surface has faded; narrow sterile rim (i.e. no pores at margin).

Flesh: tough, leathery to corky, orange to off-white to salmon, 1-8 mm thick.

Spore print: white.

Spores: ellipsoid; 4 - 6 × 2 - 3 µm; smooth.

Basidia: clavate; 10 - 25 × 5 - 7.5 µm; four spored.

Pileipellis: a confused cutis of thick walled cells, some with cap colour; trimitic.

Substrate: dead wood; including outdoor furniture and structural timber; mycelial threads are orange and are obvious when the woody substrate is broken open.

Habitat: most vegetation types from rainforests to deserts.

Notes: this is a common fungus that is easily identified to genus. Preliminary molecular studies suggest that there may be several morphologically similar species.

Collections examined: PL39614, Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden, Pat Leonard, 24 Jun 2014.