

## *Russula aff albonigra*



### *Russula aff albonigra* © Katie Syme

**Cap:** planoconvex to centrally depressed; 50 - 70 mm diameter; smooth, glabrous, slightly viscid to lubricious when wet; creamy white to cream, rapidly becoming mottled with brownish black stains, finally black; margin entire; > ½ peeling.

**Stipe:** cylindrical, wider at apex, base can be swollen; 30 - 42 × 11 - 21 mm; smooth, minutely felty; white but blackening rapidly on bruising and with age.

**Gills:** adnexed; creamy white; margins blackening when handled; lamellulae present in 1 or 2 series.

**Flesh:** white; solid; rapidly blackening on exposure to air.

**Taste:** mild.

**Chemical reactions:** FeSO<sub>4</sub> on stipe: salmon with a grey green margin; guaiac on stipe base: + or nil.

**Spore print:** white.

**Spores:** subglobose to ellipsoid; 7.1 – 9.3 × 6.1 – 8.9 µm, average 8 ± 0.6 × 6.9 ± 0.7 µm, Q = 1.03 – 1.35, average Q = 1.16 ± 0.11; amyloid ridges forming a reticulum.

**Basidia:** clavate; 45 - 50 × 10 µm; four spored; sterigmata 4 - 7 µm long.

**Cheilocystidia:** numerous, narrowly fusiform; 45 - 65 × 6 - 10 µm; apices rostrate.

**Pleurocystidia:** numerous, fusiform; 45 - 65 × 6 - 10 µm; apices rostrate or not.

**Dermatocystidia:** numerous, vermiform; aseptate but sometimes staining differentially to give a zebroid effect; 2 - 4 µm wide by up to 80 µm long.

**Pileipellis:** a cutis with hyphae and dermatocystidia.

**Habitat:** in small groups in mixed dry sclerophyll forest with Eucalypt species.

**Notes:** this *Russula* is readily recognised in the field by its cream cap and flesh that blackens rapidly on exposure to air. The Queensland collection is macroscopically similar to the WA one but has larger spores.

**Collections examined:** KS 2120/09, Bimbimbi Way, West of Ocean Beach Road, Denmark, WA, Katie Syme, 4 Jul 09; PL 57408, Dogrell Tree Track, Kinkin, Pat Leonard, 13 Apr 08.