

Russula aff densifolia



Russula aff densifolia © A. Schilling

Cap: aplanate at first but soon centrally depressed; 35 – 40 mm diameter; velutinate, matt; chalk white, blackening; margin entire; up to ¼ peeling.

Stipe: cylindrical, hard; velutinate; chalk white, blackening.

Gills: subdecurrent; very densely packed; shallow; some bifurcate; lamellulae scarce.

Flesh: firm, thin, white but blackening on cutting or bruising

Taste: mild to very slightly hot.

Smell: none.

Chemical reactions: FeSO₄ on stipe: green; Guaiac on stipe base: negative.

Spore print: white to light cream lb.

Spores: broadly ellipsoid; 6.8 – 8.5 × 5.5 – 7.4 µm; average 7.5 ± 0.45 × 6.1 ± 0.5 µm, Q = 1.1 – 1.47, average Q = 1.22 ± 0.1; ornamented with amyloid ridges forming a reticulum, with a large subhilar patch.

Basidia: clavate; 35 – 45 × 8 - 10 µm; four spored.

Cheilocystidia: numerous; fusoid to narrowly clavate, many with a mucronate apex; 40 – 50 × 5 – 9 µm; some with dark cloudy contents.

Pleurocystidia: mostly clavate and similar to cheilocystidia but most neither mucronate nor with cloudy contents.

Dermatocystidia: numerous, narrowly clavate, aseptate; partially staining in SV.

Pileipellis: a trichoderm of hyphae and dermatocystidia.

Habitat: growing in mixed forest close to *Eucalyptus pilularis*. Solitary fruitbody.

Notes: This is clearly close to Romagnesi's concept of *R. densifolia*, but it does not redden before it blackens. The blackening reaction, densely packed gills, white cap and small stature should make this fungus easy to recognise in the field and to distinguish from *R. aff albonigra*.

Collections examined: PL44313, Mapleton Falls National Park, Blackall Ranges, Pat Leonard, 9 Mar 2013.

QUEENSLAND FUNGAL RECORD © Queensland Mycological Society

Original author: P.Leonard Last updated: 09 October 2015