

Russula clelandii (Red form)



Russula clelandii (Red form) © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex at first, becoming centrally depressed; 40 - 60 mm diameter; velutinate with a distinct paler bloom in the centre; reddish grey (13D6), margin entire or occasionally striate at edge.

Stipe: cylindrical or clavate; glabrous to minutely velutinate, bright magenta (13C8); surface breaking up into patches to reveal white flesh below, giving a horizontally striate appearance; centre hollow with crosswalls and stuffed with soft white flesh; caulocystidia cylindrical with slightly inflated apices, 40 - 50 × 3.5 - 4.5 µm.

Gills: adnate, pale cream, no lamellulae.

Flesh: white, unchanging on exposure to air.

Taste: mild.

Chemical reactions: FeSo₄ on stipe: salmon; guaiac on stipe base: ?

Spore print: pale cream (IIa).

Spores: ellipsoid, 8.6 - 11 × 7.7 - 9.3 µm, Av 10 ± 0.95 × 8.6 ± 0.48 µm; Q = 1 - 1.3, average Q ± 1.13 ± 0.09; ornamented with broad amyloid warts and some connectives; apiculus hyaline.

Basidia: clavate; 45 × 15 µm, sterigmata 3-4 µm long.

Cheilocystidia: scarce, fusiform, mucronate, 60 - 70 × 12 - 15 µm.

Pleurocystidia: scarce, fusiform, mucronate, 60 - 70 × 12.5 µm; extending up to 25 µm beyond basidia.

Dermatocystidia: absent.

Pileipellis: a trichoderm of ovoid and sphaeropedunculate cells with an upper layer of elongated sometimes clavate cells 30 - 45 µm long by 2 - 4 µm wide.

Habitat: dry sclerophyll forest with *Eucalyptus*.

Notes: The red form of *R. clelandii* is microscopically closer to Grgurinovic's *R. lenkuya* on account of the pileipellis.

Collections examined: PL8509, Wallerawang, Pat Leonard, 24 May 2009.