

Russula ingwa



Russula ingwa © Patrick Leonard

Cap: convex, becoming centrally depressed; to 100 mm diameter; white when young then brown to dark brown; up to 1/3rd peeling; subcuticular colour buff.

Stipe: cylindrical, firm; to 60 × 15 - 20 mms, white but browning on handling.

Gills: adnate to subdecurrent, crowded, lamellulae absent; cream, later dingy buff.

Flesh: white, mild

Chemical tests: FeSO₄ on stipe: strong green; Guaiac on stipe base: negative.

Spore print: white.

Spores: globose to subglobose; 8 × 7.5 μm; reticulate, with a pronounced apiculus.

Cheilocystidia: clavate, many with rostrate apices; 50 - 55 × 10 - 12 μm; strongly dextrinoid.

Dermatocystidia: appendiculate; 50 × 5 μm; aseptate or uniseptate.

Pileipellis: hyphal endings ampuliform.

Habitat: usually single specimens found in wet sclerophyll forests and along moist creek side *Eucalyptus* trees.

Notes: the large size, white to brownish cap, green reaction to FeSO₄ and browning stipe are good field characters that should allow this species to be identified in the field. This is *R. adusta* sensu Cleland (1934). The specimen figured above fits Grgurinovic's description except for the presence of dermatocystidia and ampuliform hyphal endings. It differs from *R. adusta* in its whiter cap colour, less strictly convex form, pure white stipe, lack of the characteristic smell of "old wine barrels" and its strongly reticulate spores.

Collections examined: PL 7307, Tahune Forest Track, Tasmania, 18 Mar 2007; PL33410 Linda Garrett Reserve, Mapleton Susan Nelles, 10 April 2010; PL31411, Tully Park, Girraween, Peter Warhurst, 17 Apr 2011.