

Russula neerimea



Russula neerimea © Pat Leonard

Cap: concave at first, then applanate; 40 - 65 mms diameter; viscid when moist; yellowish-brown (5D8), lighter at margin (5B3), darker at centre (5F8); ½ peeling; margin pectinate.

Stipe: cylindrical; to 30 - 40 x 8 - 10 mms; glabrous; white stained pale yellowish brown with age.

Gills: adnexed to emarginated, cream to dingy buff; lamellulae absent.

Flesh: white, mild to slightly hot; with a distinctive foetid smell like cooked Jerusalem artichokes.

Chemical reactions: FeSO₄ = salmon; Guaiac = ++, olivaceous green.

Spore print: white to pale cream (IIA).

Spores: ellipsoid to subglobose; 6.7 – 8.3 × 5.8 – 7.4 μm, average 7.4 ± 0.4 × 6.6 ± 0.5; Q = 1.02 – 1.22, average Q = 1.12 ± 0.06; isolated amyloid warts to 1.3 μm, most with short connecting ridges.

Basidia: clavate; with coloured contents; 25 – 35 × 8 – 10 μm; four spored, sterigmata 2.5 – 4 μm;

Cheilocystidia: abundant; fusoid; 50 × 6 - 8 μm.

Pleurocystidia: abundant; fusoid; 40 - 50 × 6 - 8 μm.

Dermatocystidia: absent, but lactiferous hyphae staining in SV present.

Pileipellis: a somewhat gelatinised cutis with olivaceous hyphae in the subcutis.

Habitat: growing in groups, often numerous, under *Eucalyptus*, *Callitris* and possibly with other hosts in both wet and dry sclerophyll forests.

Notes: This *Russula* is relatively easy to recognise in the field with its yellow brown colour, pectinate margin and foetid smell. It has been widely recorded under a North American name *R. pectinatoides* but both the spores and mycorrhizal associates of this species are distinct.

Collections examined: PL 5507, Buderim Forest Park, Pat Leonard, 27 May 2007; PL 32409, Noosa National Park, Marcus Beach Section, Pat Leonard; 10 April 2009.