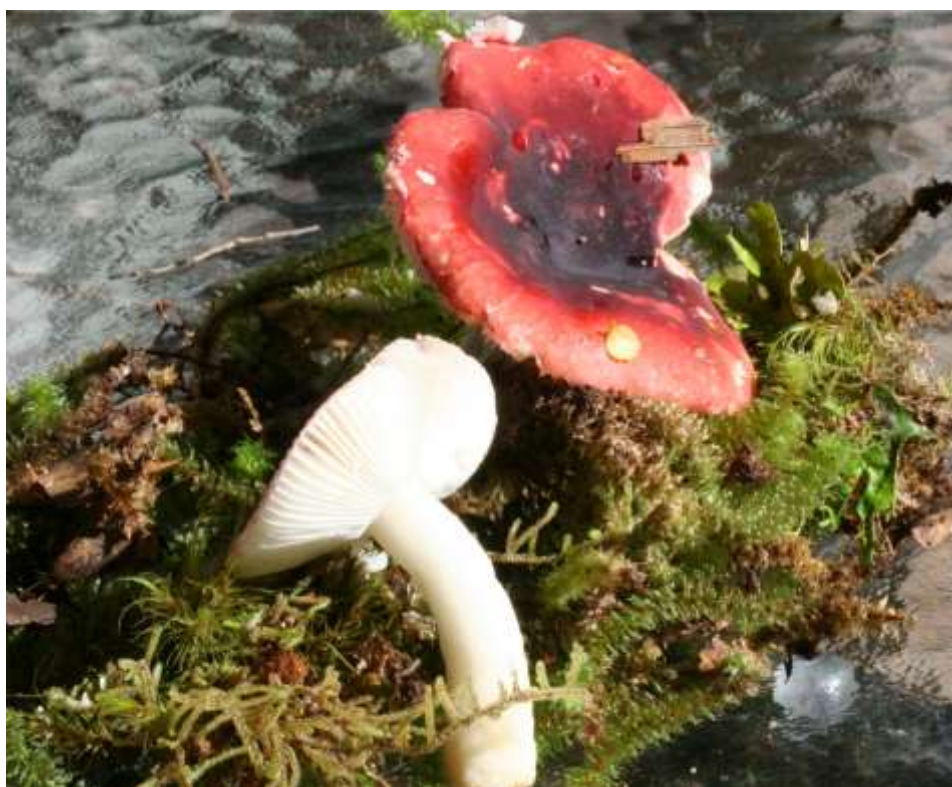


## *Russula persanguinea*



*Russula persanguinea* © Pat Leonard

**Cap:** plano convex, centre depressed; to 100 mms diameter; glabrous perimeter with pruinose centre; pillar box red (11A8, 11B8) with darker centre (11 F 3);  $\frac{3}{4}$  peeling.

**Stipe:** cylindrical, to 50 x 15 mm; glabrous; pure white; fragile.

**Gills:** adnexed, white, fragile.

**Flesh:** white; unchanging on exposure to air.

**Taste:** gills hot, but appears to be mild in some specimens.

**Chemical reactions:** FeSO<sub>4</sub> on stipe: salmon; guaiac on stipe base: negative.

**Spore print:** white.

**Spores:** subglobose;  $8.8 - 10.6 \times 7.8 - 9.4 \mu\text{m}$ , average  $9.8 \pm 0.43 \times 8.5 \pm 0.45 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $Q = 1.15 \pm 0.07$ ; with amyloid ridges and warts forming a complete reticulum.

**Basidia:** clavate;  $35 - 40 \times 12 - 15 \mu\text{m}$ ; four spored; sterigmata long, to  $10 \mu\text{m}$ .

**Cheilocystidia:** fusoid to clavate;  $50 \times 10 \mu\text{m}$ ; projecting 10 - 20  $\mu\text{m}$  beyond basidia.

**Pleurocystidia:** very numerous; fusoid with mucronate apex;  $60 - 90 \times 7 - 10 \mu\text{m}$ .

**Dermatocystidia:** numerous; clavate; aseptate or uniseptate;  $30 - 40 \times 6 - 10 \mu\text{m}$ .

**Pileipellis:** an epicutis of hyphae, dermatocystidia and some ovoid cells.

**Habitat:** found singly amongst moss in montane forests with *Eucalyptus* and *Nothofagus*. It is not clear whether this is purely a montane species, but records suggest it is limited to the colder parts of Australia.

**Notes:** This *Russula* is easy to recognise in the field with its bright red cap with an almost black center, and very white, hot tasting and fragile gills and stipe. The description here is based on the Tasmanian and NSW material, it is reported in Queensland but there are no confirmed collections.

**Collections examined:** AQ 494604, Warra-Beelbee Road; PL 17307, Cradle Mountain National Park, 26 Mar 07; PL 20509, Mt Tomah Botanic Garden, Pat Leonard, 25 May 09.