Russula purpureo-flava



Russula purpureo-flava © Patrick Leonard

Cap: plano convex; to 60 mms diameter; deep purple, purplish red (13E7, 14F7, 15F7, 16F6); minutely velutinate; slightly viscid when wet, pectinate at margin; less than ¹/₄ peeling.

Stipe: cylindrical, tapering to base; $40 - 60 \times 5 - 20$ mms; red fibres on pale yellow ground; violet red (13A6) at apex, yellow at base.

Gills: adnexed, moderately crowded, no lamellulae, mustard yellow.

Flesh: white with a yellow tinge,

Taste: mild

Chemical reactions: FeSO4 on stipe: green; Guaiac on stipe base: n.r.

Spore print: pale cream.

Spores: subglobose; $7.3 - 9.6 \times 6.2 - 8 \mu m$, average $8.4 \pm 0.7 \times 6.8 \pm 0.4 \mu m$, Q = 1.23; blunt amyloid warts up to $0.8 \mu m$ high, some forming catenate ridges.

Basidia:

Cheilocystidia: frequent; ventricose; $70 \times 10 \mu m$.

Dermatocystidia: absent.

Pileipellis: long aseptate terminal hyphae to 100 µm long by 3 - 5 µm wide.

Habitat: found singly in both *Eucalyptus* and *Nothofagus* forests

Notes: The slightly viscid purple cap, mustard yellow gills and green reaction to ferrous sulphate make this *Russula* easy to recognise in the field. There are only two collections of this species in Queensland, from Girraween and Lamington, they have slightly larger spores than the type. Specimens collected with *Eucalyptus* and *Nothofagus* show some differences.

Collections examined: PL 11307, South West Tasmania National Park, 20 March 2007; PL 18307, Franklin River Bridge, Tasmania, Pat Leonard, 25 Mar 07; PL 4509, Wallerawang, Pat Leonard, 24 May 09; AQ 808935, Davis Creek, Lamington National Park, Tony Young, 2 Apr 88; PL32411, Tully Park, Girraween, Pat Leonard, 17 Apr 2011.