

Russula sp 19

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Russula sp 19 ©

Cap: applanate with a central depression; up to 70 mm diameter; glabrous and subviscid when fresh to minutely velutinate when dry; cream to pale buff (2A3) at first but blackening rapidly, margin acute, not peeling.

Stipe: cylindrical with a central waist; 35 × 10 mm; glabrous, buff, blackening rapidly.

Gills: sub-decurrent; pale off white at first, blackening from the edge; lamellulae present in one or two tiers.

Flesh: white, blackening on cutting.

Taste: mild.

Chemical reactions: FeSO₄ on stipe: black; guaiac on stipe base: unclear, masked by blackening..

Spores: white, subglobose; 6.6 - 7.6 × 5.6 - 6.6 μm, average 6.9 (± 0.35) × 6.2 (± 0.35) μm, Q = 1.02 – 1.22, average 1.1 (± 0.07); strongly blue-black amyloid reticulate ornamentation with a few isolated warts.

Basidia: clavate; 35 - 50 × 10 μm; majority four spored.

Cheilocystidia: numerous, fusiform; ± 50 × 8 μm, many with strongly dextrinoid contents.

Pleurocystidia: numerous; narrowly clavate; 40 - 60 × 7.5 - 12.5 μm with strongly dextrinoid contents.

Dermatocystidia: present as long septate cells, 2 - 4 μm wide and up to 120 μm long, which stain differentially with sulphovanillin giving a zebroid effect.

Pileipellis: a complex trichoderm.

Habitat: found singly in wet lowland forest with *Melaleuca* and *Eucalyptus*.

Notes: This fungus is very close (spores somewhat smaller) to that included in Bougher & Syme as *Russula* aff *albonigra*, but the strongly reticulate spores and absence of reddening in the flesh place it closer to *Russula atramentosa* Sarnari.

Collections examined: PL 4037, Wallace Park, Noosaville, Pat Leonard, 14 March 07.