

Ramaria ochracea (Bres.) Corner, *Ann. Bot. Mem.* 1: 610 (1950)

A.M.Young, Aug 2016

Fruiting body 4–7 × 1–2 cm, displaying very delicate branching; *apices* white to pale tan or more ochre with age, fine, tapered and mostly pointed but may be round at the very tip, mostly dichotomous but single apices do occur; *branches* very pale tan to brownish, vertically oriented and close together so that they are ±parallel, broader near the nodes and then rather flattened, smooth, up to 1 mm diameter near the apices; *axils* rounded; *stipe* 3 × 0.6 cm, tapered downwards, white at base becoming brownish yellow; aborted branches absent. *Flesh* not recorded. *Odour* or *taste* not recorded. No records of colour changes when bruised.

Macrochemical reactions: unknown.

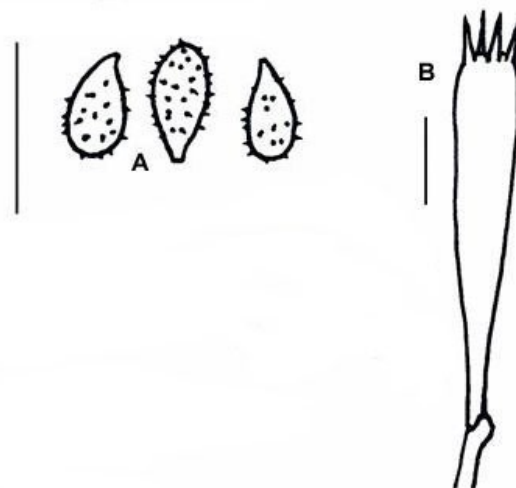
Basidiospores 4.3–6.5 × 2.5–4.0 μm; mean 5.1 × 3.2 μm; Q: 1.4–2.0; mean Q: 1.61; tear-drop shaped (lachrymiform); minutely echinulate in profile with an ornamentation of randomly scattered, fine, small, acute spines; *basidia* 22–32 × 4–5.5 μm, mean 27.6 × 4.7 μm; clamped; sterigmata 4, slender, delicate, straight, up to 4 μm long; *branch tramal hyphae* 1.5–6 μm diam., clamped, hyaline, may have thickened walls; ampulliform septa not seen; *stipe tramal hyphae* 2–10 μm, clamped, ampulliform septa not seen; rhizomorphs composed of generative hyphae 2–4 μm, clamped, thin-walled and hyaline; some generative hyphae with thickened walls, 3.5–6 μm, abundantly clamped, hyphal walls brown tinted; ampulliform septa not seen.

Habit: in tufts on soil amongst deep litter. *Habitat*: dry, open sclerophyll woodland; on soil and leaf litter.

Known distribution: Vic. Tas., WA.

Notes: *Ramaria ochracea* belongs to a group of species that are often very difficult to separate and identify. This particular species does stand out, however, due to the extremely fine and delicate, vertically oriented branching of the fruiting body, and also by the almost wholly dichotomous and delicately tapered apices.

It is possible that *Ramaria ochracea* might be confused with *R. filicicola*, however the latter species has much thicker branches and does not display the almost completely dichotomous apices found in *R. ochracea*. Microscopically, the two are very readily separated by the rough spores and skeletal hyphae in *R. filicicola* and the absence of skeletal hyphae and presence of spiny spores in *R. ochracea*.



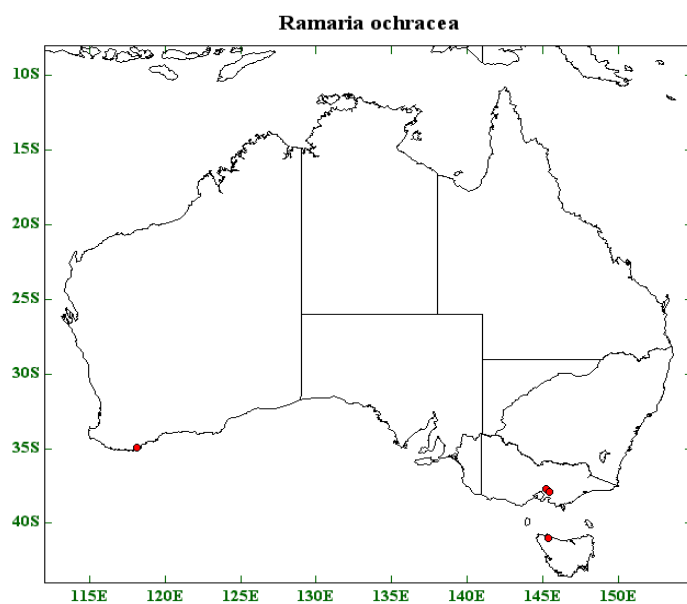
Ramaria ochracea, microdetails. A. basidiospores; B. basidium with clamp connection. Each scale bar = 10 μm. © A.M.Young.



Ramaria ochracea, material collected from Badger Weir, Victoria. The delicate branching and strongly rooting stipe are clearly shown while the apices are almost uniformly dichotomous. The pale ochre to tan coloured branches are also prominent. © B.Fuhrer



Ramaria ochracea; this is the Badger Weir collection after drying. The incredibly delicate branching is still extremely evident as well as the fact that the fruiting body emerges from a "mycelial ball". Scale bar: 3 cm. © A.M.Young.



Ramaria ochracea. Known Australian distribution.

Acknowledgements

This document was produced from material contained in the 2007 Interim Submission (The Taxonomy of genus *Ramaria* in Australia: coralloid macrofungi) forwarded to ABRS at the cessation of the *Ramaria* project. ABRS is both acknowledged and thanked for their kindness in permitting me to make this information available to the Australian mycological community.