

Ramaria stuntzii Marr, *Bibl. Mycol.* **38**: 118 (1973)

var. **gelatinosa** R.H.Petersen & Watling, *Notes Roy. Bot. Gdn. Edinburgh* **46**: 150 (1989)

A.M.Young, Apr. 2014

Preliminary Notes: The macrocharacters for the var. *gelatinosa* description are based on Petersen & Watling (1989) with reference to Exeter, Norvell and Cázares (2006) *Ramaria of the Pacific Northwestern United States*. The microcharacters are drawn from an examination of the holotype material. No colour images of this Australian variety are known to exist and it is another Australian taxon that is in great need of recollection. By kind permission of the photographer, an image of the variety *stuntzii* as known from the Pacific Northwest, is included in order to provide some guidance to the field worker.

Description

Fruting body -7×-6 cm, *apices* bright red, crowded, rounded, double dichotomous to cuspidate, minute, dry; *branches* pink to bright pink, surface structure not recorded, cylindrical; *axils* narrowly rounded; *stipe* -2.0×-1.5 cm, stout, white becoming pinkish superiorly, covered with strigose mycelium and white tomentum above ground, aborted branches common and white in colour where erupting from subsurface positions. *Flesh* white and distinctly gelatinous. *Odour* weakly of fenugreek when dry; *taste* not recorded. *Rhizomorphs* not recorded.

Macrochemical reactions: unknown.

Basidiospores $7.6-10.6 \times 3.4-5.3$ μm , mean 8.9×4.4 μm , Q 1.5–2.3(–2.7), mean Q: 1.99, ellipsoid to narrowly ellipsoid, one or more inclusions or granular, hilar appendix usually small but may be curved where moderately prominent, ornamentation of randomly scattered low warts, profile moderately rough; *basidia* $65-75 \times 9-10$ μm , mean unknown, 4-spored, clamps absent; *sterigmata* -10 μm long, long-conical; *trama* composed of thin-walled, mostly non-inflated hyphae $3-7$ μm diam., clamps absent, liberating agglutinating substance in 2% KOH; *ampulliform septa* present, $9-15$ μm diam., with stalactitic ornamentation; gleo-plerous hyphae not observed.

Habit: on soil amongst humus or leaf litter. *Habitat*: dry eucalypt forest.

Known distribution: Vic (two collections known from Wombat SF and Olinda)

Notes: Petersen & Watling (1989) found only three spores on the two collections. A later examination found an abundance of spores on both collections which emphasises how sporulation may be locally variable on the same fruiting body in species of *Ramaria*. The retention of the fresh material's colour in dried material is very readily observed and both available collections demonstrated this aspect.



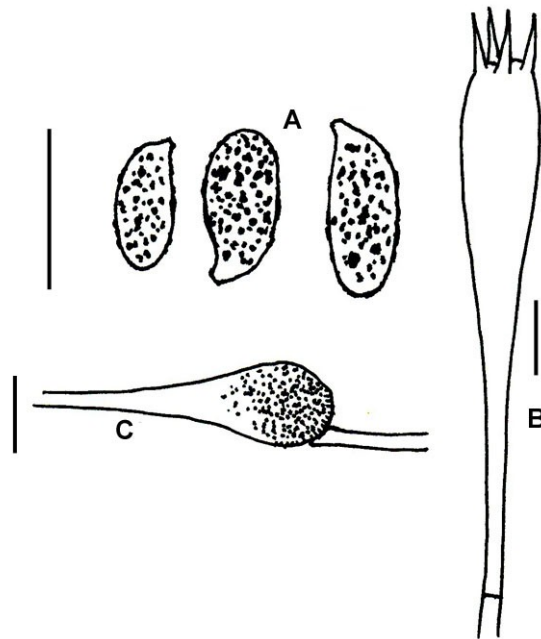
Ramaria stuntzii var. *gelatinosa*, the Wombat State Forest collection showing colour retention in dried material. © A.M.Young



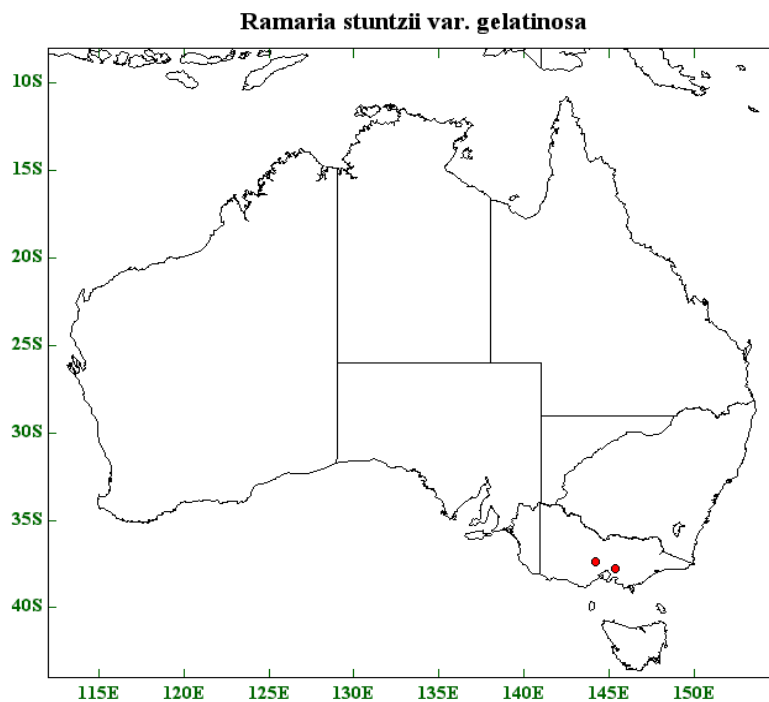
Ramaria stuntzii var. *stuntzii* from North America. Although this is an image of var. *stuntzii*, as known in N. America, the type collection of var. *gelatinosa* made from Olinda demonstrates the same overall shape in the dried material as seen in the next image. © R.Exeter.



Ramaria stuntzii var. *gelatinosa*, holotype collection from Olinda. Some of the red colouration is still evident, however the dried material still exhibits the compact nature of the fruiting body shown directly above. © A.M.Young



Ramaria stuntzii var. *gelatinosa*, microdetails. A. basidiospores; B. basidium; C. ampulliform septum. Each scale bar = 10 μ m. © A.M.Young.



Ramaria stuntzii var. *gelatinosa*. Known Australian distribution.

Acknowledgements

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