

## *Ganoderma steyaertanum*



*Ganoderma steyaertanum* © Pat Leonard

**Cap:** perennial bracket, circular or orbicular; 80 - 350 mm diameter; centrally stipitate when young, becoming laterally attached to substrate; surface undulate (wave like) to almost smooth; resinous, lacquered when young, glabrous matt with age; bright reddish brown at first becoming dull red brown to black with a pale margin; zoned in broad bands; margin broad and rounded.

**Stipe:** oval in cross section; to 50mm long, up to 90 mm broad; shiny resinous red brown.

**Pores:** white to cream at first, becoming stained dark brown as the spores mature; round; 2 - 3 per mm; pore surface usually subdecurrent and horizontal to the ground.

**Flesh:** very hard, corky; pale brown, paler in tubes.

**Smell:** none.

**Spore print:** brown.

**Spores:** ellipsoid with a truncate end;  $10 - 11 \times 7 - 8 \mu\text{m}$ ; thick walled.

**Hyphal system:** trimitic with thick walled skeletal and binding hyphae; clamps not observed but reportedly present.

**Habitat:** generally found on the roots and trunks of medium to large sized living trees, seldom on fallen logs. The present collection was growing on *Deconix regia*.

**Collections examined:** PL40410, Matthea Paulus, 16 April 2010.

**Notes:** This species can be readily recognised by its very large, broadly zoned dark red brown to black cap which is matt rather than shiny. The swollen rounded pale cap margin also seems to be a good clue to its identity. Young centrally stipitate specimens can be entirely cream and cannot readily be identified. The somewhat similar *G. chalceum* is smaller, a much redder brown and remains shiny laccate; they also have a more acute margin.