

Hericium coralloides



Hericium coralloides © Sapphire McMullan Fisher

Fruit body: an irregular clump arising from a basal attachment with multiple coral like branches ending in fine pendant spines, 50 – 200 mm wide. Entire fruiting body white to cream and surfaces smooth.

Stem: directly attached to substrate, somewhat angled, 10 – 40 mm wide, branching like coral, cream.

Spines: pendulous. tapering downwards, hanging in clusters, 5 – 10 × 0.5 - 1mm, smooth, white.

Spores: elliptical to subglobose, smooth to finely punctate, thick walled, 6 – 7 × 4.5 – 5.5 µm.

Substrate: on the boles of living and dead trees and occasionally on large logs.

Habitat: wet forests where there are ancient trees.

Notes this fungus is rare, but nevertheless seems to be found around the world and it is on the Red Data lists of several countries. Instantly recognisable with its white tiers of fine pendulous spines.

Collections examined: BRI AQ795727, Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, Sunshine Coast, S. McMullan Fisher, 17 June 2011.