

Hydnellum auratile



Hydnellum auratile © Pat Leonard

Cap: rosette like, irregular, con crescent; 30 - 60 mms diameter; scaly at center, silky shiny and radially fibrillose towards margin; light brown at the centre, pale greyish brown outer half; margin undulate.

Stipe: multiple eccentric, flattened; 10 - 25 × 2 - 4 mm; velutinate; pale brown; base somewhat swollen.

Spines: usually decurrent, crowded, tapering, about 2 mm long; pale grey brown becoming tawny to purplish brown.

Flesh: pale yellowish brown, firm.

Spore print: brown.

Spores: ellipsoid, irregular; 4 - 4.5 × 3.5 - 4 μm, Q = 1.2; ornamented with flat topped warts (tubercles).

Cheilocystidia: not seen.

Pileipellis: structure not seen, but clamp connections present.

Habitat: found in a large group wet sclerophyll forest growing in litter deposited by flood waters. Sticks and grass shoots growing through the caps.

Notes: the pale brown outer surface with a scaly cap centre, a velutinate pale brown stem, and con crescent fruiting bodies define this rather rare fungus. Although this fungus keys out in Maas Geesteranus, it is in a group that is notoriously difficult to determine. The colour of the spines differs from his description and from those of European collections as does the habitat and associated species.

Collections examined: LG 41, Linda Garrett Reserve, Mapleton, Queensland, Wayne Boatwright, 13 Jun 2015.

