

## *Lactarius sepiaceus*



*Lactarius sepiaceus* © Pat Leonard

**Cap:** convex when young, then centrally depressed; 50 - 100 mm diameter; rugulose or irregular, pruinose, matt; brownish black, margin entire.

**Stipe:** cylindrical; 20 - 60 × 10 - 15 mm; pruinose; concolorous with cap.

**Gills:** subdecurrent to decurrent; thick; pallid cream, bruising pink; with dark lamellar edge; lamellulae present in 2 unequal series.

**Flesh:** white, unchanging on exposure to air or occasionally slightly pink.

**Milk:** white, mild, unchanging

**Smell:** none.

**Spores:** white; ellipsoid;  $8.1 - 10.3 \times 6.8 - 8.8 \mu\text{m}$ , average  $9.15 \pm 0.65 \times 7.9 \pm 0.55$ ,  $Q + 1 - 1.3$ , average  $Q = 1.16 \pm 0.08$ ; amyloid ridges forming an almost complete reticulum.

**Cheilocystidia:** clavate, thin walled, septate;  $40 - 60 \times 5 - 8 \mu\text{m}$ .

**Pleurocystidia:** absent.

**Pileipellis:** a trichoderm of upright septate hyphae.

**Habitat:** in dry sclerophyll forest under *Eucalyptus* and possibly other hosts.

**Collections examined:** Mount Tambourine foray; April 2009; PL 23411, Lake Wobby Track, Fraser Island, Sapphire McMullan Fisher, 7 Apr 2011.

**Notes:** this dark, sepia coloured and robust *Lactarius* is easily recognised in the field. However, it is not clear that the Queensland collections are exactly the same species as McNabb's New Zealand species, the colours and dark gill edge match, but the New Zealand material never shows a pink bruising reaction on the gills and usually has a much taller stipe. It appears to be relatively rare with only three records in Queensland.

