

Leratiomyces ceres



Leratiomyces ceres © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex, 15 – 50 mm diameter; viscid when young; orange red to copper colour, often with whitish patches at the margin.

Stipe: cylindrical, 20 – 100 × 2 – 10 mm, whitish with a tint of the cap colour, often thickened towards the base and sometimes with the suggestion of a ring.

Gills: pale olivaceous yellow, quickly darkening as the spores mature.

Spore print: dark purplish brown.

Spores: ellipsoid; 11 – 13 × 6 – 7.5 µm.

Basidia: clavate, 30 – 40 × 8 – 14 µm, four spored.

Pleurocystidia: fusoid, ventricose, with dark contents which turn yellow in KOH (Chrysocystidia).

Pileipellis: a cutis of repent hyphae.

Habitat: rare in well rotted litter in the wild, common in parks and gardens that have been mulched.

Notes: distinguished from *Leratiomyces squamosus* var *thraustus* by the cap which is viscid when young, and the presence of chrysocystidia. Previously known as *Hypholoma aurantiaca* or *Stropharia aurantiaca* this fungus is seemingly rare in natural habitats and there is only one record of it being found in such a habitat in Queensland. It is however spreading very rapidly as a weedy species on bark and cane mulch being used by garden contractors.

Collections examined: AQ797609, Brisbane Botanic Garden, Mt. Coot-tha, A.W. Wood.

