Leucopaxillus species MP3



Leucopaxillus sp MP3 © Megan Prance

**Cap:** irregularly convex or applanate; 30 – 80 mm diameter; dry, minutely velutinate; wavy; violet brown (11E8), plum, sometimes with a whitish bloom; margin irregularly wavy, edge inrolled.

**Stipe:** irregularly cylindrical or tapering towards the base, tough, hollow;  $40 - 60 \times 15 - 25$  mm; velutinate; colours as cap but often with white bloom and thus paler towards apex.

**Gills:** subdecurrent; orange (6A6); close, with lamellulae present and intercalated in two series, some interveining near margin; lamellar edge darkening with age.

Flesh: yellowish cream but with plum tones in upper part of cap and lower stipe.

Taste: bitter, somewhat hot and farinaceous.

Smell: strongly farinaceous.

**Spore print**: white.

**Spores:** ellipsoid;  $4.5 - 5.3 \times 3.3 - 4$  µm, average  $4.95 \pm 0.2 \times 3.6 \pm 0.2$  µm. Q = 1.21 - 1.51, average Q = 1.38  $\pm$  0.08, with spinose ornamentation; intensely amyloid.

**Basidia:** narrowly clavate,  $65 - 80 \times 12 - 15 \mu m$ ; mostly four spored, some two spored, sterigmata to 7  $\mu m$ ; coloured contents.

Pleurocystidia: not distinctive.

**Pileipellis:** a trichoderm of irregular, thick walled hyphae, to 5 μm wide, interwoven with irregular ellipsoid cells with dark brown contents; dermatocystidia absent.

**Habitat:** growing in leaf litter below *Eucalyptus* in open woodland by the banks of the Brisbane River.

**Notes:** This is a tough long lasting fungus which appears to be growing in the soil. It has a superficial resemblance to a *Tricholomopsis*, but the bitter taste and the fact that it is not growing on wood, allow it to be identified in the field. The strongly amyloid ornamented spores are good microscopic characters. Close to but not identical with *L. amara* which grows with conifers.

**Collections examined:** 20110210\_P\_MP3\_\_9\_3.JPG, Wolston Creek, Riverhills, Brisbane, Megan Prance, 6 Mar 2011.

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