

Melanoleuca fusca



Melanoleuca fusca © Pat Leonard

Cap: plano convex to almost applanate, with a low central umbo; 45 – 60 mm diameter; surface dull, matt; pale grey with a darker brownish tint on the umbo; margin downturned.

Stipe: more or less cylindrical narrowing towards apex and with a bulbous base; 45 – 60 × 4 – 7 mm; pale at apex and base, greyish elsewhere; longitudinally fibrillose, fibres darker than underlying flesh.

Gills: sinuate; crowded; white becoming pale cream; lamellulae present.

Flesh: thin, white to very pale grey.

Taste:

Spore print: white.

Spores: ellipsoid; 7 – 9 × 5 – 6.5 μm , $Q = 1.8$; with small punctate amyloid warts.

Basidia: clavate; two, three or four spored.

Pleurocystidia: scarce, ventricose fusoid; some but not all also septate, apices encrusted with downward pointing crystals.

Pileipellis: a cutis of smooth interwoven hyphae; clamp connections absent.

Substrate: soil amongst grassland.

Habitat: solitary, in grassland under *Melaleuca* and *Eucalyptus*.

Notes: this elegant grey fungus is a typical *Melanoleuca* distinguished by its grey to fuscous cap, spores with amyloid warts and its encrusted cystidia. It appears to be rare in Queensland with only two record.

Collections examined: PL2612, Ravensbourne National Park, J. Dearnaley, 17 June 2012; PL12313, Twin Waters, Maroochydore, Pat Leonard, 4 Mar 2013.