

Melanoleuca polioleuca



Melanoleuca polioleuca © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex becoming almost flat; 40 – 60 mm diameter; very dark brown to almost sepia but drying out to a buff colour; surface smooth and somewhat shiny.

Stipe: irregularly cylindrical, slightly expanded at apex and sub-bulbous at the base; 40 – 60 × 7 – 12 mm; pale buff; covered in buff fibrils.

Gills: crowded, sinuate, initially white becoming cream to buff.

Flesh: white in the cap, buff in base of stem, fading upwards.

Smell: not distinctive.

Spore print: cream.

Spores: ellipsoid; 7 – 8.5 × 5 – 6 µm; minutely ornamented with dots when seen under the oil immersion lens; ornamentation amyloid with Melzer's.

Cystidia: cheilocystidia distinctive harpoon shape; with terminal crystals; hyaline and thin walled; 50 – 60 × 5 – 15 µm.

Habitat: growing in a small group under *Allocasuarina littoralis* on sandy soil about 20 meters from the beach.

Notes: *Melanoleucas* are relatively easy to recognise by the combination of their Trichomatoid form, the minutely ornamented spores, and cheilocystidia with terminal crystals. They are much harder to allocate to species, this collection is closest to the northern hemisphere *M. polioleuca*.

Collections examined: PL 38708, Mooloolaba spit, 30 Jul 08.