

## *Stereum ostrea*



*Stereum ostrea* © Megan Prance

**Fruiting body:** fan shaped and funnel shaped with outer edge above point of attachment; may be sessile or have a broad or occasionally a narrow attachment to the substrate; projecting up to 100 mm from substrate with a diameter of up to 140 mm; thin, often only 1 - 2 mm thick.

**Upper surface** is composed of concentric alternating bands of yellow, orange and brown; when wet it glows orange at the margin, but fades to pale dull browns on drying; may have zones of hairs but often seems to be naked; margin yellow or at least lighter than inner zones, usually wavy.

**Lower surface:** smooth with neither pores nor gills nor teeth, shows concentric zones; brownish orange when fresh, fading to grey (?).

**Flesh:** thin and of a tough but elastic consistency, like leather. Not changing colour on bruising.

**Chemical reactions:** all surfaces red with KOH.

**Spore print:** very seldom seen; white.

**Spores:** elliptic;  $5.5 - 7.5 \times 2 - 3 \mu\text{m}$ ; faintly amyloid in Melzer's reagent, smooth, hyaline.

**Basidia:** slenderly clavate, four spored.

**Cystidia:** none seen.

**Pileipellis:** dimitic; the skeletal hyphae are hyaline or yellow, septate and sparsely branched; the generative hyphae are branched and septate; clamp connections absent.

**Habitat:** common in wet forests and appears to have a worldwide distribution. Often found in large numbers on medium sized logs and tree trunks, growing in tiers. It appears to be very long lasting and may well be biennial.

**Notes:** this appears to be a very common fungus in the rainforests of South-East Queensland and is readily recognised by its bright orange colours when fresh.

**Collections examined:**