

Tricholomopsis rutilans



Tricholomopsis rutilans © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex; 100 – 130 mm diameter; squamulose; dark purplish brown squamules cover cap over a pale yellow background.

Stipe: clavate; 120 – 150 × 25 – 30 mm; squamulose in upper 2/3rds; purplish brown squamules on bright yellow background.

Gills: adnate; thick; yellow with a slightly darker edge; lamellulae absent.

Flesh: thick, cream; not changing colour on exposure to air.

Smell: pleasant, nutty.

Spore print: white.

Spores: ellipsoid; 4.7 – 6.6 × 4 – 5 µm, average 5.6 ± 0.5 × 4.55 ± 0.3µm; Q = 1.06 – 1.35, average Q = 1.22 ± 0.095; spores hyaline containing a large oil droplet which has the effect of making the spores appear uneven.

Basidia: clavate; 20 – 25 × 4 – 5 µm; four spored.

Cheilocystidia: broadly clavate; 40 – 50 × 8 – 12 µm, forming a sterile edge to the gill.

Pileipellis: a cutis of hyphae which appear slightly brown in water.

Habitat: growing singly or in pairs on dead wood in dry sclerophyll forest. Host may have been *Callitris*.

Notes: a very large purplish brown and yellow fungus growing on wood; the habitat and colours make it unmistakable in the field. Microscopic features match those of the European species which is restricted to conifers.

Collections examined: PL94310, Central Circuit Track, Giraween National Park, Pat Leonard. 22 March 2010.