

Lactarius deliciosus



Lactarius deliciosus © Pat Leonard

Cap: irregularly convex, becoming centrally depressed; 50- 110 mm diameter; viscid, pale apricot to salmon (5A6 - 7A6), with darker salmon dots; margin down curved and often scalloped.

Stipe: cylindrical; 30 - 65 × 15 – 30 mm; matt, dry; concolorous with cap; with numerous darker orange coloured scrobiculi (small pitted areas), a paler band at the apex of the stipe.

Gills: decurrent; crowded; salmon with a paler edge, bruising grey green.

Flesh: orange with paler areas almost white; firm, thick; changing slowly on exposure to air, ochraceous orange and eventually pale grey green..

Milk: reddish orange, taste mild.

Spore print: pinkish buff.

Spores: ellipsoid; 8 -10 x 6.5 - 8 µm; Q = 1.25, amyloid ornamentation of rather thick ridges forming an almost complete reticulum, isolated short ridges scarce or absent.

Cystidia: cheilocystidia scattered, fusoid, thin walled, 45 – 50 × 7 – 9 µm; pleurocystidia similar

Pileipellis: an ixocutis made up of thick-walled hyphae.

Habitat: in small groups under introduced conifers in Victoria and New South Wales.

Notes: the large orange to salmon fruit bodies that exude reddish orange milk make this fungus relatively easy to identify. It can be separated from *L. clarkeae*, by its habitat and its salmon gills and carrot coloured milk.

Collections examined: PL70509, Mt Tomah Botanic Garden, NSW, P. Leonard, 25 May 2009.