

Lactarius eucalypti



Lactarius eucalypti © Pat Leonard

Cap: applanate to shallowly convex; 25 – 30 mm diameter; glabrous to subtomentose, reddish brown (8C8, 8E8).

Stipe: cylindrical; 20 – 50 × 4 - 10 mm; glabrous to sometimes white pruinose, concolorous with cap with occasionally more violaceous red brown (10E5).

Gills: subdecurrent, moderately crowded, cream to flesh coloured; lamellulae intercalated in two series.

Flesh: flesh coloured, soft, flexible, unchanging on exposure to air.

Milk: white, mild, unchanging.

Spore print: white.

Spores: globose, 7.5 – 8.5 × 7.5 – 8.5 µm, with low amyloid ridges forming a complete reticulum.

Basidia: ventricose; 35 – 55 × 10 – 12 µm; four spored.

Cheilocystidia: scattered, fusiform or ventricose, 35 – 45 × 7 – 9 µm.

Pleurocystidia: similar.

Pileipellis: a cutis of interwoven hyphae ± 5 µm in diameter.

Habitat: growing in small groups in a variety of soils including pure sand, under *Eucalyptus* in wet and dry sclerophyll forests.

Notes: this small reddish brown *Lactarius* with thin flesh can be recognised relatively easily, although larger specimens need to be checked to confirm that it has the smaller globose spores separate it from *L. mea*. The most common and widespread *Lactarius* in Australia found with a range of *Eucalyptus* species and favouring, but not exclusively, drier habitats.

Collections examined: PL 30308, Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden, 3 Mar 2008; PL 15608, Central Station, Fraser Island, 25 Jun 2008, SMF 2361, Cootharaba, Sapphire McMullan Fisher, 8 Aug 2009.