

## *Lactarius pubescens*



*Lactarius pubescens* © Pat Leonard

**Cap:** convex to centrally depressed, becoming concave; 35 – 100 mm diameter; dry and smooth or sometimes radially fibrillose; cream to pale cream with pale pinkish buff tints in the centre when mature; margin inrolled at first, and covered in shaggy hairs which become less evident as it ages.

**Stipe:** cylindrical to slightly clavate, stuffed or hollow in centre at maturity; 25 – 65 × 11 – 20 mm; dry, glabrous; pale cream to pale pinkish buff.

**Gills:** broadly adnate to subdecurrent; narrow and crowded; pale cream to pale pinkish buff, lamellulae absent.

**Flesh:** white, unchanging.

**Smell:** acidic, fruity.

**Taste:** lamellae and milk almost immediately very acrid.

**Milk:** white, unchanging on exposure to air, drying pallid cream.

**Chemical characters:** FeSO<sub>4</sub> on stipe: rapidly salmon pink; guaiac on stipe base: n. r.

**Spore print:** pale cream.

**Spores:** broadly ellipsoid to ellipsoid; 5.8 – 8.3 × 4.2 – 6 µm, average 7 ± 0.4 × 5 ± 0.2 µm; Q = 1.2 – 1.5, average Q = 1.37 ± 0.07; ornamented with amyloid warts and ridges forming a partial reticulum; plage present.

**Basidia:** clavate; 30 – 60 × 5 – 8.5 µm, four spored.

**Cheilocystidia:** numerous, clavate or fusiform; 30 – 50 × 5 – 8.5 µm; with apices mucronate or moniliform.

**Pleurocystidia:** clavate or fusiform; 30 – 50 × 5 – 8.5 µm; with moniliform apices.

**Pileipellis:** an ixocutis of densely interwoven hyphae 3 – 6 µm wide.

**Habitat:** occasional under *Betula* in parks and gardens.

**Notes:** readily recognizable by the combination of the white cap with a pinkish buff centre when mature, a hairy margin, the very acrid milk and its association with birch.

**Collections examined:** MEL 2257969A, Richmond, Tasmania, J Pisconieri, 24 Mar 2003.