

Lactarius 'tasmanicus'



Lactarius 'tasmanicus' © Pat Leonard

Cap: applanate to centrally depressed; to 50 mm diameter; pale yellow brown (4B2) at margin darkening to reddish brown to dark brown (8F4) at centre.

Stipe: cylindrical to clavate, 30-50 × 15 mm, white tinged with cap colours, firm fleshed.

Gills: adnexed, cream but with a light buff tinge.

Flesh: thick, white, unchanging.

Milk: white, sparse.

Spores: white; subglobose; 7.3 – 8.8 × 6.4 – 7.9 μm, average 8 ± 0.4 × 7 ± 0.5 μm, Q = 1.03 – 1.22, average 1.15 ± 0.07; blunt isolated warts and some very fine connectives, apiculus to 2 μm,

Basidia: clavate; 50 - 70 × 8 – 12 μm; four spored, sterigmata fine, 2 – 3 μm.

Cheilocystidia: fusiform; 70 - 100 × 8 - 14 μm, with coloured contents, apices fusiform or mucronate; other cystidia are smaller, clavate and arise from hyphae that branch and are septate.

Dermatocystidia: not seen.

Pileipellis: a very confused tangle of hyphae, possibly and ixotrichoderm.

Habitat: with *Nothofagus cunninghamii* in very mixed wet sclerophyll forest.

Notes: In the field, this fungus looks a little like *Russula albonigra* sensu Syme and Bougher, but the flesh does not change colour on exposure to air and the spores are not reticulate. It also has some affinity with *R. delica*. Sequencing results place this in *Lactarius* so, for the moment, one must conclude that it is an as yet undescribed species; more collections are needed. Description based on material collected by the author in Tasmania.

Collections examined: PL 7307, Tahune forest track, Tasmania, 18 Mar 2007.