

Lactifluus clarkeae



Lactifluus clarkeae © Pat Leonard

Cap: irregularly convex becoming centrally depressed, 50 - 90 mm diameter; covered with felted fibrils; orange to greyish orange (6B6); margin in-rolled when young.

Stipe: cylindrical, 20 – 40 × 15 – 20 mm, matt, concolorous with cap,

Gills: adnate; pale white to cream, with brown spotting where latex has dried; lamellulae present as a single series..

Flesh: white, firm, thick; unchanging on exposure to air.

Milk: white, taste mild.

Chemical reactions: FeSO₄ on stipe: slowly green.

Spore print: cream.

Spores: subglobose to ellipsoid; 6.0 – 7.4 × 5.2 – 6.3 μm, average 6.55 ± 0.55 × 5.9 ± 0.35 μm, Q = 1-1.3, average 1.1 ± 0.07; amyloid ornamentation of isolated verrucae or with a few verrucae joined by fine ridges.

Basidia: narrowly clavate; four spored; 55 – 75 × 6 – 9 μm.

Cheilocystidia: numerous, fusoid, thin walled, 85 – 115 × 6 – 8.5 μm; mostly with rounded apices, occasionally mucronate.

Pleurocystidia numerous, fusoid, thin walled, 65 – 105 μm; mostly with rounded apices, occasionally mucronate.

Pileipellis: a trichoderm made up of thick-walled hyphae.

Habitat: in small groups under *Eucalyptus* in wet sclerophyll forest.

Notes: the orange to apricot orange fruit bodies that exude white milk and with flesh that stains green in ferrous sulphate make this fungus relatively easy to identify.

Collections examined: PL 59408, Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden, 19 Apr 2008; PL22608. Central Station, Fraser Island, 25 Jun 2008; PL40312, Mt Norman Track, Girraween National Park, Pat Leonard, 24 Mar 2012.