

Marasmius aff elegans “white stem”



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Cap: 12-20 mm diameter, apricot (47) to sienna 11), with paler margin, not sulcate, bluntly conic to broadly convex, dry velvety

Stipe: fleshy, (20)-40-50 x 1.5-2mm, hollow, smooth, cylindric, all white, prominent basal mat of mycelial hairs

Lamellae: moderately close, ~30, with 2-3 tiers lamellulae, and occasional shallow cross venations, free, whitish cream with margin concolourous with cap.

Flesh: thin, white, ~1mm thick

Spores: inamyloid, ellipsoid to teardrop shape, average 9.5 x 5.5µm, $Q_{av}=1.73$, range 8.5-10 x 5-6.5µm, $Q_{min}=1.58$, $Q_{max}=1.87$

Basidia: majority 2 spored, small number 3 spored, 26.5 x 8.5µm

Pleurocystidia: absent

Cheilocystidia: Siccus type broom cells, with short to very long divergent projections, mostly thin walled, with body also thin-walled except for outer ¼ at base of projections; shape narrowly to broadly and irregularly cylindric, clavate; body 9-16 x 4-8µm, digits 4-12 x 1-2µm, with 2-4 (-8) digits. Also occasional (2 seen) mucronate, smooth cheilocystidia 24 x 8µm.

Pileipellis: large divergent and sometimes bifurcating Siccus type broom cells, with thick refractive walls on projections and upper body wall, clavate, irregularly cylindric, body 13-24 x 4-9µm, digits 3.5-11.5 x 1-2µm, 5-9 digits, some branching.

Caulocystidia: absent

Substrate: leaf litter **Habit:** gregarious +/- caespitose

Habitat: tropical dry vine thicket

Collections examined: SMF 3041, FE Guard, Brooklyn Sanctuary, March 2018; AQ553628, PIF28282, Paul Forster, Mungana, Chillagoe 22/2/2002.

Notes: This species looks very similar to *Marasmius elegans*, but always has a totally white stem. It may be part of a complex. DNA of *M. elegans* has not been done to date, and the information for both *elegans* and *aff.elegans* is eagerly awaited.