

Ramaria capitata var *ochraceosalmonicolor*



Ramaria capitata var *ochraceosalmonicolor* © John Wrench

Fruiting body: upright, branched, compact ‘cauliflower like’ coral; 50 – 70 mm tall by 30 – 50 mm wide; glabrous; ochre yellow to salmon orange, with a white sock at the base; tips acute or narrowly rounded.

Stipe: several compact branches fusing into a rooting stem; white to ochraceous cream; 10 – 20 × 6 – 7 mm; occasionally with aborted branches.

Flesh: white.

Taste: not determined.

Smell: not recorded.

Spore print: white.

Spores: cylindrical to curved; 8 – 15 × 4 – 6 µm, Q = 2.1; with small, scattered warts.

Basidia: clavate; 70 – 85 × 10 – 13 µm.

Habitat: growing in a small group under *Eucalyptus* spp. in wet and dry sclerophyll forests in a thick litter layer.

Notes: there are at least three *Ramaria* species in Queensland that have yellow/orange/salmon colours. *R. capitata* var *ochraceosalmonicolor* can readily be distinguished on account of its compact cauliflower form in contrast with the more open coralloid structures of *R. anziani* and *R. samuelsii*. In cases of doubt, the spores should be examined, those of *R. capitata* will on average be over 12.5 µm long, those of *R. samuelsii* and of *R. anziani* will on average be less than 12.5 µm long.

Collections examined: PL560419, Tewantin National Park, Patrick Leonard, 10 Apr 2019.