

Hydnellum fraudulentum

Photo

Hydnellum fraudulentum © Susie Webster

Cap: conrescent; up to 35 mm diameter; angular, pitted, velutinate; white to grey-cream with violaceous black in the pitted parts.

Stipe: cylindrical, widening at apex; 10 – 20 × 8 – 12 mm; velutinate; orange brown; base incorporating soil and litter so difficult to view, may be slightly bulbous.

Teeth: decurrent; subulate; up to 2 mm long; pale brown.

Flesh: indistinctly zoned blue grey and orange brown

Smell: not distinctive.

Chemical characters: KOH = blue then green.

Spore print: not obtained.

Spores: irregular, tuberculate; 4.5 – 5.75 × 4.25 – 5.4 μm, average 5.25 ± 0.35 × 4.75 ± 0.4 μm, Q = 2 – 1.24, average Q = 1.1 ± 0.06; spore shape very irregular with some almost nodulose, others with seemingly quite sharp angular edges.

Basidia: clavate; 30 – 35 × 6 – 7 μm; four spored.

Pleurocystidia: not detected.

Pileipellis: a monomitic structure of generative hyphae 4 – 5 μm wide, pale brown in KOH.

Habitat: growing on roots of an *Angophora* in dry sclerophyll forest.

Notes: this fungus looks very like the northern hemisphere *Hydnellum caeruleum*, but differs in its habitat, *Myrtaceae* rather than *Pinaceae*, somewhat larger spores and lacks clamp connections.

Collections examined: PL890418, Chermside Hills Reserve, Susie Webster, 11 Apr 2018.