

Lactarius eucalypti



Lactarius eucalypti © Pat Leonard

Cap: applanate to shallowly convex; 25 – 30 mm diameter; glabrous to subtomtose, reddish brown (8C8, 8E8).

Stipe: cylindrical; 20 – 50 × 4 – 10 mm; glabrous to sometimes white pruinose, concolorous with cap with occasionally more violaceous red-brown (10E5).

Gills: subdecurrent, moderately crowded, cream to flesh-coloured; lamellulae intercalated in two series.

Flesh: flesh-coloured, soft, flexible, unchanging on exposure to air.

Milk: white, mild, unchanging.

Spore print: white.

Spores: globose, $7.5 - 8.5 \times 7.5 - 8.5 \mu\text{m}$, with low amyloid ridges forming a complete reticulum.

Basidia: ventricose; $35 - 55 \times 10 - 12 \mu\text{m}$; four-spored.

Cheilocystidia: scattered, fusiform or ventricose, $35 - 45 \times 7 - 9 \mu\text{m}$.

Pleurocystidia: similar.

Pileipellis: a cutis of interwoven hyphae $\pm 5 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter.

Habitat: growing in small groups in a variety of soils including pure sand, under *Eucalyptus* in wet and dry sclerophyll forests.

Notes: this small reddish brown *Lactarius* with thin flesh can be recognised relatively easily, although larger specimens need to be checked to confirm that it has the smaller globose spores to separate it from *L. mea*. The most common and widespread *Lactarius* in Australia found associated with a range of *Eucalyptus* species and favouring, but not exclusively, drier habitats.

Collections examined: PL 30308, Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden, 3 Mar 2008; PL 15608, Central Station, Fraser Island, 25 Jun 2008; SMF 2361, Cootharaba, Sapphire McMullan-Fisher, 8 Aug 2009.