

Laetiporus portentosus



Laetiporus portentosus © Pat Leonard

Fruiting body: ungulate, plicate, radially folded; 150 – 300 mm diameter, 20 – 35 mm thick; velutinate; pale brown to almost white; margin thick and rounded. Older specimens often riddled with insect holes.

Stipe: absent; laterally and broadly attached.

Pores: ovoid, white, 1 – 3 per mm.

Flesh: 10 – 15 mm thick, firm, spongy.

Taste: strong, pleasant, fungoid.

Spore print: not observed, may be hyaline.

Spores: subglobose; $7 - 9 \times 7 - 8 \mu\text{m}$, average $7.9 \pm 0.7 \mu\text{m}$, average $Q = 1.05 \pm 0.09$; smooth.

Basidia: short, clavate; $14 - 20 \times 8 - 10 \mu\text{m}$, four-spored.

Pleurocystidia: not seen.

Pileipellis: dimitic, binding hyphae with nodulose outgrowths.

Substrate: growing on wood.

Habitat: wet and dry sclerophyll forests and other habitats, often, but not always at shoulder height and above.

Notes: this species favours Eucalypts as its host tree. It often grows high in the canopy and is only noticed on the ground when it becomes riddled with insect holes and has blown off the tree.

Collections examined: PL940417, Bald Rock National Park, Pat Leonard, 6 Apr 2017.