

Russula amoenolens



Russula amoenolens © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex with a central depression; 40 – 60 mm diameter; glabrous; brownish grey, pale grey to grey (5D2 – 5D4), darker in the centre and paler towards margin; half peeling; outer 1/3rd distinctly pectinate (striate).

Stipe: cylindrical to clavate, hollow in centre; 30 – 60 × 10 – 20 mm; glabrous; white.

Gills: adnexed, crowded; white with browning edges.

Flesh: white.

Taste: unpleasant, oily, slowly hot.

Smell: distinctive, Jerusalem artichoke soup; ripe camembert (?).

Chemical reactions: FeSO₄ on stipe: pinkish grey; Guaiac on stipe base: blue.

Spore print: pale cream.

Spores: ellipsoid; 7 – 9 × 5 – 7 µm, Q = 1.3; with scattered blunt amyloid warts and a very few connectives.

Basidia: clavate; 35 – 45 × 6.5 – 9 µm; four-spored.

Cheilocystidia: fusiform; 60 – 100 × 6.5 – 9 µm; extending beyond basidia.

Pleurocystidia:

Dermatocystidia: present, ± fusiform, staining weakly in sulphovanillin.

Pileipellis: a cutis.

Habitat: gregarious with *Pinus patula*, the Mexican weeping pine. Introduced to Australia and reported with many pine species and some broadleaved species.

Notes: introduced to Australia from the northern hemisphere and always found with exotic trees. A range of brownish grey pectinate *Russula* species have been described from Europe, North America and Japan. Distinguishing between them remains a subject of debate amongst *Russula* specialists. Sequencing matches this collection to North American species identified as *R. amoenolens*.

Collections examined: PL30321, Dorrigo cabins, Dorrigo, New South Wales, Pat Leonard, 1 Mar 2021.