

Schizophyllum commune



Schizophyllum commune © Fran Guard

Cap: usually shell- or fan-shaped, with a radius of 10 – 30 mm and a narrow point of attachment to the wood, which can be lateral (on the side) or dorsal (on the upper surface). It is more or less hairy, zoned and white to grey to grey-brown on its upper surface and often furrowed and with a toothed irregular margin.

Stipe: absent.

Gills: lower surface consists of radiating pinkish gills with a split edge.

Flesh: tough, fibrous and somewhat ochraceous.

Spore print: ochraceous.

Spores: cylindrical, $6 - 7 \times 2 - 2.5 \mu\text{m}$.

Basidia: narrowly clavate, $15 - 50 \times 4 - 6 \mu\text{m}$, four-spored.

Pleurocystidia: absent.

Pileipellis: a trichoderm of brownish hairs.

Habitat: on dead wood ranging from twigs to quite large logs in most habitats in Queensland. Common on wood piles.

Notes: this small white to grey-brown bracket on dead wood with split gills cannot be mistaken for anything else. This is a very common fungus and widespread in Queensland. It is dangerous to breathe in the spores of this fungus as they are known to have germinated in people's lungs causing serious infections.

Collections examined: Fran Guard, Dilkusha, Maleny.