

Auricularia australiana Y.C. Dai & F. Wu



Auricularia australiana © Fran Guard

Macro characters: fruit bodies soft, rubbery, gelatinous; translucent pale pinkish, reddish cream to pinkish brown; sessile to substipitate; reniform to semi-circular; up to 80 mm diameter by 3 – 8 mm thick; pileus minutely tomentose to almost glabrous, with fine hyaline hairs; hymenium conspicuously meruloid to porose reticulate, with veins a pale hyaline cream colour and hymenium surface pale pinkish cream to pale reddish brown; colours darken with age; growing in gregarious or caespitose groups, occasionally solitary.

Microscopic characters: pileus made up of densely compacted, gelatinised hyphae with cuticular hairs, $60 - 175 \times 5 - 6 \mu\text{m}$, with rounded tips; basidia $40 - 45 \times 4 - 5 \mu\text{m}$, cylindrical, with 3 transverse septa; spores allantoid with 2 – 3 prominent oil globules, $10 - 13 \times 5 - 6 \mu\text{m}$.

Collections examined: AQ794937, Dilkusha, Maleny, Fran Guard, April 2008.

Notes: This fungus is readily recognised by its reticulate to poroid white to pale-coloured veining on the hymenium which darkens with age. Previously recorded as *A. delicata*.