

Auricularia pusio



Auricularia pusio © Fran Guard

Macro characters: fruit bodies rubbery, gelatinous; pale grey to olive-brown; resupinate and commonly lobed; up to 50 mm diameter by 15 – 20 mm thick; pileus conspicuously zoned, pilose with fine hyaline hairs; margin undulating, often pale from spores; hymenium purplish brown, conspicuously veined, wrinkled; 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 $45 - 70 \times 3 - 4 \mu\text{m}$, cylindrical, with 3 transverse septa; spores allantoid, $15 - 18 \times 6 - 7 \mu\text{m}$.

Collections examined: PL1510, Jolly's Lookout, D'Aguilar National Park, David Fisher, 29 May 2010.

Notes: It is recognised by its zoned pileus, wrinkled to lobed hymenium and large spores. Many Queensland collections are over 50 years old, with very small fruit bodies and a densely hairy pileus. The species was first described by Berkeley in 1881 based on specimens from Queensland. It was previously recorded as *A. mesenterica*.