

Morchella australiana



Morchella australiana © Fran Guard

Cap: conical to slightly rounded hollow head; 40 – 100 × 30 – 50 mm; its surface consisting of parallel longitudinal ridges and ladder like cross grooves or pits, in a grey brown to honey colour, the ridges being darker brown; giving a honeycombed effect; internal surface is creamy-white and granular.

Stem: cylindrical but broader and somewhat fluted at the base; 20 – 40 × 10 – 20 mm; hollow and brittle; surface is finely granular and yellowish-white; the junction with the head is well defined.

Spore print: cream, spores produced from all over the honeycombed surface.

Spores: broadly ellipsoid; 20 – 24.5 × 13 – 15.5 µm; smooth.

Asci: eight spored; 250 – 300 × 20 µm.

Substrate: sandy soil and mulch.

Habitat: forests, heaths and parks on the Darling Downs and Granite Belt.

Frequency: rare, more common after fire.

Notes: Morels are quite variable in colour and form and may represent a species complex. Three named species of *Morchella* have been found in Queensland. *Morchella australiana* is distinguished by the conspicuously parallel arrangement of the ribs on its conical cap.