

## *Gymnopilus dilepis*



*Gymnopilus dilepis* © Patrick Leonard (left) Tina Watson (right)

**Cap:** convex becoming plano-convex; 35 – 120 mm diameter; squamulose; reddish purple (15D7) squamules on a pale yellow (3A3) to cream (4A3) background; margin inrolled with veil remnants attached.

**Stipe:** clavate, tapering towards apex; often caespitose; 50 – 140 × 6 – 22 mm; striate but not fibrillose; yellow ochraceous at the apex but purple (15D5) increasing towards base; ring or ring zone near apex.

**Gills:** decurrent; moderately spaced; bright yellow; forked at margin.

**Flesh:** white to very pale yellow.

**Smell:** none.

**Spore print:** yellowish brown.

**Spores:** ellipsoid; 6 – 8 × 4 – 6 µm; finely warty, with a thick wall.

**Basidia:** clavate; 4-spored.

**Cheilocystidia:** numerous, weakly clavate, 25 – 40 × 7 – 10 µm; with dark brown pigmentation.

**Pleurocystidia:** numerous; clavate; 20 – 30 × 7 – 9 µm; with distinctive brown pigmentation.

**Pileipellis:** a cutis of repent hyphae 5 – 8 µm wide; those forming squamules with purplish brown contents.

**Habitat:** growing in a caespitose clump in native potting compost, mulch and well-rotted logs.

**Notes:** the purple squamules on the cap, yellow gills, ring on the stipe and the warty spores identify this as *Gymnopilus dilepis*. This fungus appears to have a preference for mulch. The literature suggests it is confined to conifers and mulch made from them, but there are many records from sites where conifers are not present; for example, in the Cooloola National Park and in the Northern Territory.

**Collections examined:** PL11121, Private Garden, Tewantin, Joan Heavey, 10 Apr 2021; PL120623, Bamien track, Cooloola, Tina Watson, 22 Jun 2023.