

## *Calvatia candida* var *rubroflava*



*Calvatia candida* var *rubroflava* © Patrick Leonard

**Cap:** fruiting body spherical or pyriform (like an upturned pear), turbinate (ribbed vertically) with a flattened top; the head is  $\pm$  80 mm diameter; outer skin (exoperidium) is thin and papery; the covering becomes areolate with the individual ochre red brown (9D8) flakes separating to reveal paler patches in between.

**Stipe:** well-developed, 40 mm tall, 30 mm wide at apex tapering to a rounded base 10 mm wide, with multiple small rhizoids.

**Flesh:** No distinct diaphragm between the peridium and the base. No central column. Flesh white and firm becoming a slightly olivaceous dark brown as the spores mature.

**Spores:** globose; 4 – 5  $\mu$ m diameter; ornamented with very small warts. No pedicel but a stump may be seen on a few spores.

**Habitat:** growing in soil amongst litter in wet sclerophyll forest. Frequent in some seasons and hardly seen at all in others.

**Notes:** This fungus is recognised by its small to moderate size, the lack of a diaphragm, furfureous (scurfy) red brown appearance and globose warty spores about 5  $\mu$ m in diameter. Cunningham's name is retained here despite it being rejected by the Atlas of Living Australia. There is a continuing and unresolved issue as to whether this is the same fungus as *Calvatia rubroflava* found in North America or *Calvatia rugosa* named by Derek Reid in 1977 from Trinidad and Tobago. The original description of *C. rugosa* (Coker & Crouch 1928) describes a fungus that was distinguished by its immediate brilliant yellow staining when cut or bruised and which appears to be very rare. Reid states that it is unclear where the Australian material should be placed.

**Collection:** PL40221, Mapleton Falls National Park, Susie Webster, 4 February 2021.

**References:**

- Coker W.C. & Couch J.N. (1928) The Gasteromycetes of the Eastern United States.  
Cunningham G.H. (1944) The Gasteromycetes of Australia and New Zealand.  
Reid D.A. (1977) Gasteromycetes from Trinidad and Tobago. Kew Bulletin 31, 657  
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