

Chlorophyllum molybdites



Chlorophyllum molybdites © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex at first, becoming planoconvex; 80 – 200 mm diameter; minutely floccose, overlain by a central persistent disc and large squamules; base colour cream; disc and squamules dark to light brown; margin entire and sometimes inrolled.

Stipe: cylindrical with a bulbous base; 80 – 250 × 15 – 25 mm; with a thick fleshy double ring which is moveable; glabrous white above ring, white fibrillose below.

Gills: free; distant; pale pinkish cream at first but turning olivaceous as the spores mature.

Flesh: white but turning red on bruising or exposure to air.

Spore print: green.

Spores: broadly ellipsoid, with an apical pore; 9.5 – 12.5 × 7 – 9 µm; smooth, thick-walled, slightly dextrinoid.

Basidia: clavate, four-spored with short blunt sterigmata, 35 – 40 × 10 – 12 µm.

Cheilocystidia: clavate to sphaeropedunculate, abundant, forming an almost sterile edge to the gill.

Pleurocystidia: absent.

Pileipellis: a trichoderm.

Habitat: seems to be adapted to disturbed sites with relatively high nutrient (nitrogen?) levels. Found in parks, gardens and on roadsides, rare in undisturbed habitats.

Notes: At first sight this fungus looks like a *Macrolepiota*; it is however easily distinguished by taking a spore print which is a very distinctive olivaceous green. This species causes gastric upsets if eaten. It is occasionally mistaken for the European species *Macrolepiota procera*, which has a similar appearance but white spores.

Collections examined: PL12310, Noosa Rugby Club, Pat Leonard, 7 March 2010.