

## *Lactarius turpis*



*Lactarius turpis* © P.L.Leonard

**Cap:** convex with age becoming slightly to distinctly depressed; 30-140 mm diameter; surface finely velutinous and slightly viscid and more distinctly velutinous to innately hairy or squamulose near the inrolled margin in young specimens; olive-brown to blackish at centre, grey-olivaceous to olivaceous buff towards margin,

**Stipe:** cylindrical to barrel-shaped; 16 - 65 × 9 - 25 mm; surface smooth, slightly viscid, then dry and shiny, pale chrome to olivaceous buff or grey-olivaceous, palest at apex, often with olive-brown spots.

**Gills:** broadly arcuate to decurrent, rather narrow to medium broad, rather crowded, some forked, white, then pale cream, clay-buff when bruised.

**Flesh:** whitish; firm; solid or hollow in the stem; cap reddish with KOH.

**Milk:** white, drying greyish.

**Taste:** mild at first, then very acrid.

**Spore print:** pale cream.

**Spores:** subglobose to ellipsoid, 6.3 - 8.8 × 4.5 - 6.0 μm, av. 7.0 - 8.0 × 5.6 - 6.0 μm, Q = 1.10 - 1.40, average Q = 1.29 ± 0.04; amyloid ornamentation of ridges and warts up to 1 μm high, connected with finer lines to form many closed meshes, isolated warts scattered; plage inamyloid.

**Basidia:** cylindric to subclavate, 35 - 50 × 7 - 9 μm; 4-spored.

**Pleurocystidia:** lanceolate, scattered to fairly numerous, 40 - 85 × 7 - 10 μm, strongly projecting.

**Cheilocystidia:** numerous, creating an almost sterile gill edge, 17 - 50 × 5 - 8 μm, cylindric to lanceolate, tapering to an acute, rounded or mucronate apex.

**Pileipellis:** an ixocutis with slightly ascending hyphae; pileipellis 150-200 μm thick; hyphae 3 - 6 μm broad, hyaline to greyish; terminal elements cylindric.

**Habitat:** associated with *Betula* and found in parks and gardens.

**Notes:** widely introduced in the southern hemisphere. Also widely recorded under its synonyms *L. plumbeus* and *L. necator*.