

Marasmius sp ‘tropical parasol’



© Frances Guard

Cap: 10–25 mm diameter, sulcate-striate, cream surface and bifurcating ridges, with purplish buff to fawn (29) central disc and sulci, parabolic to convex, becoming applanate at maturity, translucent.

Stipe: 40–70 × 1.5–2 mm, cylindrical, occasionally flattened with longitudinal crease, vinaceous buff (31), to pale purplish chestnut (21), +/- whitish bloom, darker at base with mycelial mat binding leaf litter.

Lamellae: widely spaced, 12–16, adnate with +/- tooth; lamellulae 2–3 tiers, cream, concolorous with cap, margin not coloured.

Flesh: thin, translucent, cream.

Smell: strong odour of spring onions.

Spore print: creamish-white.

Spores: inamyloid, fusiform, smooth, average 22.5 × 5.5 μm, Q_{av}=3.96; range 21–23.5 × 5.5–6 μm, Q=3.39–4.36.

Basidia: large clavate with 4 spores, av. 33 × 9.5 μm, sterigmata 2.5–4 μm.

Pleurocystidia: nil.

Cheilocystidia: nil, to sparse smooth cells similar to pileipellis.

Pileipellis: hymeniform palisade of smooth cells, ranging from broadly clavate (common) to bluntly bifurcate, to boot shape and globose on narrow cylindrical stem 15–25 × 7–12 μm.

Substrate: leaf litter.

Habitat: groups of 10–12 in well-vegetated monsoon woodland, riparian *Melaleuca* swamp forest, or disturbed grassy parkland.

Collections examined: SMF3037, SMF3046, SMF3057, 5–6/3/18, Brooklyn AWC Sanctuary, Mt Carbine, FNQ; MEL2382888 (GMB543), coll. M. Barrett et al., Fogg Dam, NT.

Notes: This delicate and striking species is widespread across the top of Australia, and belongs to *Marasmius* Sect. Globulares. It is almost certainly an undescribed species. DNA places it close to another undescribed species from China.