

Multifurca australis



Multifurca australis © Patrick Leonard

Cap: centrally depressed to infundibuliform; 60 – 70 mm diameter; pubescent felty; matt, chalk white; margin in-rolled at maturity and appendiculate.

Stipe: cylindrical, solid; 30 – 35 × 15 – 20 mm; glabrous and chalk white.

Gills: subdecurrent; moderately crowded; bright orange (5B6, 5B8); shallow; most bifurcating twice.

Milk: scarce.

Flesh: white, firm, unchanging on exposure to air.

Taste: bitter.

Smell: strong, resinaceous.

Spore print: orange?

Spores: broadly ellipsoid; 4.1 – 5.3 × 3.3 – 4.5 μm , average 4.6 ± 0.3 × 3.9 ± 0.3 μm , Q = 1.02 – 1.39, average Q 1.18 ± 0.09; weakly amyloid with sparse low warts and a few short ridges; prominent inamyloid apiculus.

Basidia: narrowly clavate; 55 – 65 × 6 – 9 μm ; mostly 2-spored basidia present.

Pseudocystidia: numerous, clavate; 45 – 65 × 5 – 8 μm ; thin-walled.

Macrocystidia: scarce, cylindrical; 90 – 175 × 7 – 15 μm ; thick-walled.

Lactiferous hyphae: scarce but present in the hymenium and the pileipellis.

Dermatocystidia: numerous; clavate, somewhat irregular.

Pileipellis: an ixotrichoderm composed of thin (3 – 4 μm) septate hyphae that narrow towards a rounded end.

Habitat: wet sclerophyll forest with *Eucalyptus pilularis* and other Myrtaceous forest trees.

Notes: the chalky white cap, orange coloured bifurcating gills and small weakly amyloid spores all suggest this collection is in the genus *Multifurca*. It is close to the *M. ochrophylla* described from New Caledonia but the cap is much larger, the spores are somewhat smaller and the host is in the *Myrtaceae*, not *Nothofagaceae*.

Collections examined: PL520421, Tewantin National Park, Pat Leonard, 13 Apr 2021.