

Russula sp. PL 31411



Russula sp. PL 31411 © Pat Leonard

Cap: centrally depressed on emergence from the ground; 40 – 100 mm diameter; shiny, glabrous; white but soon becoming brown or smokey grey (6D8, 6F4); margin entire, up to ¼ peeling.

Stipe: cylindrical or tapering to base; firm at first becoming stuffed; 25 – 40 × 15 – 25 mm; glabrous; white with some cap colour tinges at maturity.

Gills: subdecurrent; crowded; shallow; cream to buff.

Flesh: white, unchanging on exposure to air; only cap browns, not flesh.

Taste: mild.

Smell: foetid, unpleasant.

Chemical reactions: FeSO₄ on stipe: strong salmon; guaiac on stipe base: positive, + or ++.

Spore print: white.

Spores: globose; 7.4 – 8.6 × 6.8 – 8.4 μm, average 8.2 ± 0.3 × 7.6 ± 0.45 μm, Q = 1.01 – 1.22, average Q = 1.08 ± 0.06; thick amyloid ridges, sparse warts and fine connectives forming a reticulum.

Basidia: narrowly clavate, 40 – 45 × 8 – 10 μm; 4 spored; sterigmata 2 – 3 μm long.

Cheilocystidia: narrowly clavate, mucronate; 50 – 60 × 9 – 12 μm; thin walled.

Pleurocystidia: similar to cheilocystidia.

Dermatocystidia: absent.

Pileipellis: an ixocutis composed of long septate hyphae 2 – 3 μm wide, with brown contents.

Habitat: growing in small groups in open *Eucalyptus* woodland dominated by *Eucalyptus andrewsii*.

Notes: a white *Russula* with a browning cap, distinguished from *R. ingwa* and *R. aff albonigra* by its salmon reaction to FeSO₄ and lack of dermatocystidia.

Collections examined: PL31411, Tully Park, Girraween, Peter Warhurst, 17 Apr 2011.