

Leucopaxillus sp 'casuarina'



Leucopaxillus sp 'casuarina' © Patrick Leonard

Cap: irregularly convex or applanate; 30 – 80 mm diameter; dry, minutely velutinate; wavy; violet brown (11E8), plum, sometimes with a whitish bloom; margin irregularly wavy, edge inrolled.

Stipe: irregularly cylindrical or tapering towards the base, tough, hollow; 40 – 60 × 15 – 25 mm; velutinate; orange tinged with cap colour but often with white bloom below and a rooting base; mycelium white.

Gills: adnate to subdecurrent; orange (6A6); close, with lamellulae present and intercalated in two series, some interveining near margin; lamellar edge darkening with age.

Flesh: yellowish cream but with plum tones in upper part of cap and lower stipe.

Taste: bitter, somewhat hot and farinaceous.

Smell: strongly farinaceous.

Spore print: white.

Spores: ellipsoid; 4.5 – 5.3 × 3.3 – 4 μm, average 4.95 ± 0.2 × 3.6 ± 0.2 μm. Q = 1.21 – 1.51, average Q = 1.38 ± 0.08, with spinose ornamentation; intensely amyloid.

Basidia: narrowly clavate, 65 – 80 × 12 – 15 μm; mostly 4-spored, some 2-spored, sterigmata to 7 μm; coloured contents.

Pleurocystidia: not distinctive.

Pileipellis: a trichoderm of irregular, thick-walled hyphae, to 5 μm wide, interwoven with irregular ellipsoid cells with dark brown contents; dermatocystidia absent.

Habitat: growing in leaf litter below *Eucalyptus* in open woodland by the banks of the Brisbane River.

Notes: This is a tough, long-lasting fungus which appears to be growing in the soil. It has a superficial resemblance to a *Tricholomopsis* and *Phylloporus*, but the white spores, bitter taste and the fact that it is not growing on wood, allow it to be identified in the field. The strongly amyloid ornamented spores are good microscopic characters. Close to but not identical with *L. amara*, which grows with conifers.

Collections examined: 20110210_P_MP3__9_3.JPG, Wolston Creek, Riverhills, Brisbane, Megan Prance, 6 Mar 2011.