

Phellodon plicatus



Phellodon plicatus © Warwick Nash

Pileus: centrally depressed; 25 – 35 mm diameter; plicate, radially folded; silky, dull reflective or shiny; warm brown, darker towards the center; clearly concentrically zoned; margin thin and strongly lobed, tomentose and appendiculate.

Stipe: cylindrical to slightly flattened, tapering towards the base; 25 – 30 × 4 – 7 mm; glabrous; buff to brown; sometimes irregular.

Spines: adnate to subdecurrent; about 30° out of vertical; fine, 2 – 4 mm long; white to yellowish grey.

Flesh: tough, thin, warm brown.

Smell: strong of fenugreek.

Spore print: hyaline?

Spores: globose to subglobose; 3.5 – 5.5 × 3.5 – 4.5 μm, average 4.1 ± 0.4 × 3.9 ± 0.4 μm, average Q = 1.06 ± 0.05; ornamented with low blunt spines; inamyloid.

Basidia: clavate; four spored.

Substrate: in deep litter.

Habitat: sclerophyll forest with *Eucalyptus* and *Allocasuarina*.

Notes: As Maas Geesteranus states, separating *Phellodon* is very difficult. The brown flesh, buff pileus with black radial patches and relatively large (for *Phellodon*) spores all point towards *Phellodon plicatus*. The spore size and odd pleurocystidia suggested that *Auriscalpium umbella* should also be considered, but this collection does not have amyloid spores!

Material examined: Juy Coss, Linda Garrett Circuit, Mapleton NP, 10 May 2024.

