

Rhodocybe piperita



Rhodocybe piperita © Judith Hewett

Cap: planoconvex; 40 – 85 mm diameter; glabrous, somewhat viscid when young; white with a pinkish buff tint or very pale brown tinge at the centre.

Stipe: central; irregularly cylindrical or flattened; 35 – 45 × 10 – 25 mm; glabrous, matt, white; very firm rubbery flesh; with rhizoids.

Gills: subdecurrent; crowded, shallow; with lamellulae in two intercalated series; whitish becoming pale clay pink.

Flesh: white, unchanging, firm to rubbery.

Smell: strong, peppery.

Spore print: pale clay-pink.

Spores: subglobose to ellipsoid; 7 – 8 × 5 – 5.5 µm; non-amyloid, shallow nodulose, appearing thick-walled, and angular in vertical view.

Basidia: narrowly clavate; 30 – 35 × 6 – 7 µm; 4-spored.

Cheilocystidia: not observed.

Pleurocystidia: clavate, some with a rostrate apex; 70 – 85 × 14 – 20 µm.

Pileipellis: an ixocutis.

Habitat: in dry sclerophyll forest under Eucalyptus.

Notes: macroscopically this looks like a *Tricholoma*, but the clay-pink spore print allows it to be keyed easily to *Rhodocybe piperata* in Baroni & Gates.

Microscopically it is also very distinct, with slightly nodulose spores that appear angular in end view.

Collections examined: PL240624, Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden, Judith Hewett, 12 June 2024.