

*Marasmius pseudoelegans* F.E. Guard, T. Lebel & Dearnaley 2024



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**Cap:** Small, 8–18(–25) mm diameter, apricot (47), rust (13) to sienna (11); smooth velvety surface; broadly convex to almost flat.

**Stipe:** Central, cartilaginous, 30–45 × 0.75–1.5 mm, cylindric, hollow, purplish-chestnut (21) base, bay (19) mid- and upper-shaft, pale cream at apex, pruinose surface, cream to buff basal tuft of mycelium. Juvenile stipe paler, with brown only at base.

**Lamellae:** Gills moderately crowded, ca. 26, 4–5 tiers lamellulae and multiple bifurcations, free to adnexed, cream, non-marginate.

**Flesh:** thin, white.

**Spores:** smooth, narrow ellipsoid, inamyloid, 9.5–11.5 × 3.5–4 µm.

**Basidia:** not seen.

**Pleurocystidia:** absent

**Cheilocystidia:** common, *Siccus*-type broom cells.

**Pileipellis:** hymeniderm of *Siccus*-type broom cells.

**Caulocystidia:** 1. Common elongate *Siccus*-type cells, and 2. Uncommon smooth, wavy obtuse-ended cells, sometimes branched.

**Substrate:** gregarious in leaf litter or well-rotted wood.

**Habitat:** subtropical rainforest, palm forest and wet sclerophyll forest.

**Collections examined:** 5 Mar. 2003, Lamington NP, O'Reillys *A. Young* LNP957; 21 Oct. 2018, Mapleton Falls NP, *W.G. Boatwright* WGB523; 5 Mar. 2022, Linda Garrett NP, *W.G. Boatwright*, QMS2022-03-05-012.

**Notes:** This species is a doppelganger for *M. elegans* in colour, form and size, though the bifurcating gill formation is helpful in separating the two. Microscopically, the caulocystidia are different, with *Siccus*-type cells common in *M. pseudoelegans* and rare in *M. elegans*. DNA shows them to be quite distinct.