

Amanita pyramidifera



Amanita pyramidifera © Pat Leonard

Cap: broadly convex at first, later applanate with a very broad umbo; 80–210 mm diameter; white, covered in pyramidal scales which can be grey-brown or white; margin appendiculate.

Stipe: clavate to sub-bulbous; 50–90 mm; white; ring fugacious or absent, pyramidal scales attach to lower stipe; volva absent but base of stipe turbinate with pyramidal warts like those of cap, which brown with age.

Gills: free; white to pale cream; lamellulae in 2 series.

Flesh: white, unchanging.

Spore print: white.

Spores: ellipsoid; $9.6\text{--}12 \times 7.2\text{--}8.4\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, $Q = 1.39$ (Wood); $6.8\text{--}8.6 \times 5.8\text{--}7.2\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, average $7.8 \pm 0.7 \times 6.35 \pm 0.4\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, $Q = 1.11\text{--}1.4$, average $Q = 1.23 \pm 0.09$ (PL31313); amyloid, thin-walled.

Basidia: narrowly clavate; 4-spored.

Cheilocystidia: pyriform or ovoid.

Pleurocystidia: not observed.

Pileipellis: a cutis of filamentous hyphae, but both inflated cells and hyphae seen in velar remains.

Habitat: growing singly or in pairs in soil in wet sclerophyll forest with *Eucalyptus*.

Notes: this large white *Amanita* is characterised by the pyramidal scales on the cap, its adpressed volva and the appendiculate margin to the cap. Some specimens have significantly smaller spores than the type!

Collections examined: PL212087, Maroochy Bushland Botanic Gardens, 8 Dec 2008; PL1309, Noosa Library, Wallace Park, Noosaville, Pat Leonard, 6 Mar 2009; PL31313, Maroochy Bushland Botanic Gardens, Pat Leonard, 7 Mar 2013.