

Marasmius leppii sp. nov.



© Fran Guard (lab. shot)

Cap: very small, pileus 2–5 mm diam., conical, broadly convex with central umbo; orange-red, drying brown; surface dry smooth.

Stipe: central, cartilaginous, 5–10 × 0.5–1.0 mm; orange-red lower two-thirds, off-white upper third, finely pruinose lower half with strigose base and white mycelium binding to substrate.

Gills: sub-distant, 14–16, with 2–3 tiers lamellulae, free, yellowish, non-marginate.

Flesh: very thin, white.

Chemical reactions: nil.

Spores: 5.5–6 × 3–4 µm (×3 spores), broadly ellipsoid, smooth, inamyloid.

Basidia: nil found.

Cheilocystidia: cylindrical, narrow, clavate *Siccus*-type cells, sparse to dense digits, occasionally bifid and some irregular smooth shapes.

Pleurocystidia: absent.

Pileipellis: hymeniderm of common *Siccus*-type cells, clavate, cylindric or sub-globose, with thick-walled digits 3–8 × 1–1.5 µm and rare smooth, irregular cells.

Caulocystidia: smooth, cylindric, rarely bifid, thin- to thick-walled cells 20–100 × 3.5–6 µm.

Habitat: *M. leppii* is gregarious in cypress pine forest (*Callitris* sp.), on well-decomposed litter in open forest on a rocky ridge.

Notes: This is unusual habitat for *Marasmius*, and the species has been found only once in southern NSW. However, since *Callitris* and open forests are not uncommon in southern QLD and in good weather conditions, this species may possibly be found in QLD. It is a tiny fungus in the same series as *M. elegans*, ser. *Luteoli*, but not close. More collections are needed.

Collection examined: NSW, Jimberoo State Forest, Rankins Springs, 12 Jun 1990, H. Lepp, HL416, CANB574279.