

Armillaria novae-zelandiae



Armillaria novae-zelandiae © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex to applanate, subumbonate; 30–100 mm diameter; viscid; hazel to yellowish brown, with darker brown squamules towards the centre of the cap; hardly peeling.

Stipe: cylindrical with a bulbous or sub-bulbous base; often caespitose and in large troops; 50–120 × 5–10 mm; fibrillose; pinkish above annulus, drab brown to sepia below.

Gills: sinuate to subdecurrent; white becoming cream.

Flesh: off-white, unchanging.

Taste: mild.

Chemical reactions: not noted.

Spores: white; ellipsoid; 7–8 × 4.5–5 µm; inamyloid.

Basidia: clavate, hyaline, 4-spored.

Pleurocystidia: absent.

Pileipellis: a cutis of tightly woven brownish hyphae.

Habitat: very common in cool temperate rainforest in New Zealand and Eastern Australia. Limited to the south-east corner of Queensland.

Notes: recognised by its cap colour, mild taste, and bulbous base. It is often found in very large clusters. We need a good collection from Lamington or Springbrook!

Collections examined: Lake Daniels Track, Lewis Pass, New Zealand, Pat Leonard.