

Armillaria pallidula



Armillaria pallidula © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex to campanulate; 45–90 mm diameter; dry and covered with minute fulvous or tawny scales which disappear with age; margin inrolled at first.

Stipe: cylindrical to clavate, base sub-bulbous; 50–65 × 20–25 mm; pale buff with a white fibrillose covering, with a distinct ring at first, which disappears to leave a ring zone.

Gills: sub-decurrent to decurrent; crowded, anastomosing, pale tawny; lamellulae present in one or two series.

Taste: not recorded.

Spore print: cream to dark cream.

Spores: ellipsoid; $6.2–8.2 \times 4.6–6.6 \mu\text{m}$, average $7.3 \pm 0.5 \times 5.2 \pm 0.5 \mu\text{m}$, $Q = 1.05–1.61$, average $Q = 1.4 \pm 0.13$; inamyloid; moderately thick-walled; unornamented.

Basidia: narrowly clavate; $45–55 \times 4–5.5 \mu\text{m}$, mostly 4-spored.

Pleurocystidia: clavate to cylindrical; thin-walled; $25–65 \times 4–8 \mu\text{m}$; forming a sterile edge to the gill.

Pileipellis: a cutis of repent, radially arranged thin-walled hyphae with honey-coloured contents.

Habitat: growing in dry sandy native forests and dry sclerophyll forest, but also found invading exotic plantations of pine. So far only reported from Queensland.

Collections examined: PL7312, Fort Bushcare Reserve, Oxley, Pat Leonard, 10 Mar 2012; PL40722, Mooloolah River National Park, Warwick Nash, 2 Jul 2022.

Notes: this species is differentiated by its relatively pale colours, the campanulate shape of the young cap and its lack of yellow pigmentation.