

Auricularia australiana



Auricularia australiana © Fran Guard

Macro characters: fruit bodies soft, rubbery, gelatinous; translucent, pale pinkish, reddish cream to pinkish brown; sessile to substipitate; reniform to semi-circular; up to 80 mm diameter by 3–8 mm thick; pileus minutely tomentose to almost glabrous, with fine hyaline hairs; hymenium conspicuously meruloid to porose reticulate, with veins a pale hyaline cream colour and hymenium surface pale pinkish cream to pale reddish brown; colours darken with age; growing in gregarious or caespitose groups, occasionally solitary.

Microscopic characters: pileus made up of densely compacted, gelatinised hyphae with cuticular hairs, $60\text{--}175 \times 5\text{--}6 \mu\text{m}$, with rounded tips; basidia $40\text{--}45 \times 4\text{--}5 \mu\text{m}$, cylindrical, with 3 transverse septa; spores allantoid with 2–3 prominent oil globules, $10\text{--}13 \times 5\text{--}6 \mu\text{m}$.

Collections examined: AQ794937, Dilkusha, Maleny, Fran Guard, Apr 2008.

Notes: This fungus is readily recognised by its reticulate to poroid white to pale-coloured veining on the hymenium, which darkens with age. Previously recorded as *A. delicata*, it was renamed by Y.C. Dai & F. Wu in 2021.