

Auritella arenicolens



Auritella arenicolens © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex to irregular undulating; 15–35 mm diameter; velvety and fibrillose; dark brown (8F7); margin entire, not striate.

Stipe: cylindrical tapering slightly towards base; 15–30 × 5–12 mm; brown fibrillose on the upper half on a pale base.

Gills: adnate; thick; dark brown at maturity with lamellulae in two intercalated series.

Flesh: tough; pale ochraceous.

Smell: sour?

Spore print: brown.

Spores: ellipsoid, amygdaloid; 8 × 5 µm; smooth, thick-walled.

Basidia: clavate; 40–60 × 7–10 µm; 4-spored.

Cheilocystidia: numerous, forming a sterile edge to the gill; 60–90 × 8–12 µm; sinuous, with a subcapitate apex.

Pleurocystidia: absent.

Pileipellis: nearest to being a cutis but irregular with interwoven hyphae and clamp connections; appearing brown in KOH.

Habitat: growing in a small group in sand in Wallum heath with *Melaleuca quinquinervia* and *Allocasuarina littoralis* nearby.

Notes: this collection keyed to the genus *Inocybe* in FunKey but it lacks pleurocystidia with metuloids at the apex and has very distinctive, long, sinuous cheilocystidia. In Matheny and Bougher's paper on the genus *Auritella*, this collection keys to *A. dolichocystis* on account of the spores being <10 µm long on average. Comparing full descriptions suggested that this was close to *Auritella arenicolens* and in the description of that species the variability in spore size is remarked upon.

Collections examined: PL140521, Coolum National Park, north of Coolum High School, Pat Leonard, 4 May 2021.