

Austroboletus asper



Austroboletus asper © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex; 35–95 mm diameter; may be viscid at first but becoming distinctly velvety and soft; cinnamon brown to cocoa brown (6B3, 7B8); with a pale, appendiculate margin.

Stipe: cylindrical to clavate, hollow or stuffed; 35–80 × 6–17 mm; with a very pronounced reticulum; dry; creamy white, becoming ochraceous with age.

Pores: adnate; pentagonal to rounded; small; clay pink but tubes darker and tube mouth pale.

Flesh: white, unchanging.

Taste: mild.

Spore print: clay pink.

Spores: phaseoliform; 14.3–18.7 × 4.4–5.5 µm, average 16.2 × 4.9 µm; average Q = 3.3; minutely verrucose; weakly dextrinoid.

Basidia: clavate; 30–36 × 6–11 µm; 4-spored.

Cystidia: fusoid rostrate.

Pileipellis: a trichoderm with septate hyphae containing yellow-brown pigment.

Habitat: found in tall Eucalypt forest in Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia.

Notes: This is clearly close to *Austroboletus occidentalis* with the dry, soft, felty cap and prominent dry reticulate stipe. But the spores have a significantly different Q value, and it may well be distinct.

Reference: K. Syme et al (2020) *Austroboletus asper*. Fungal Planet 1143.