

Austroboletus occidentalis



Austroboletus occidentalis © Pat Leonard

Pileus: convex when young, pulvinate then plano-convex; 55–170 mm diameter; soft, minutely to distinctly tomentose, rough-velvety then scaly; ochraceous to pale sienna (6B5) with rust-colour showing beneath; margin appendiculate.

Stipe: clavate or swollen above an irregular or pointed base with swelling just at soil-level; 60–120 × 15–25 mm; white at apex, smooth or with small reticulations, or raised lines but strongly reticulate ochre or bright sienna lacunae towards base; with copious white mycelium and white rhizoidal strands.

Tubes: whitish then clay pink or pale vinaceous; pores concolorous.

Flesh: white with faint clay pink tinge in pileus, bay under cortex, luteous in stipe especially where damaged by grubs.

Smell: none.

Taste: none, not bitter.

Spores: phaseoliform; $12.3\text{--}17.3 \times 4.6\text{--}6.2 \mu\text{m}$, average $15 \pm 1.43 \times 5.6 \pm 0.4 \mu\text{m}$, $Q = 2.2\text{--}3$, average $Q = 2.66 \pm 0.28$; smooth or very minutely verrucose.

Basidia: clavate; $20\text{--}25 \times 10\text{--}12 \mu\text{m}$; 4-spored.

Pleurocystidia: cylindric, elongate or lageniform; $50\text{--}55 \times 8.25\text{--}9.5 \mu\text{m}$, quite short, hardly breaking the surface of the hymenium.

Pileipellis: with erect, open, long, filamentous, cylindric hyphae forming zone c. 300 μm deep, septate, tawny orange hyphae 7–9.5 μm wide.

Habitat: in an old stand of *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) but seems to be found with a wide variety of hosts and there is some evidence that suggests it is not strictly mycorrhizal.

Collections: PL920415/NDR53, North Dr Roberts, Girraween National Park, Megan Prance, 11 Apr 2015; Mount Norman Track, Girraween National Park, Pat Leonard, 2012.

Notes: distinguished from *A. lacunosus* by larger size, the much darker colours of the cap and dry matt texture.