

Bolbitius variicolor



Bolbitius variicolor © Ray Baxter

Cap: convex to campanulate; 25 mm diameter; pale citrine yellow, olive to yellow brown, becoming grey on drying; very viscid, trapping debris; small umbo brown, becoming more prominent with age; margin distinctly striate.

Stipe: cylindrical, 40 × 3 mm; glabrous or minutely floccose (under stereo); bright yellow and remaining yellow straw on drying.

Gills: free; intercalated, with one set of lamellulae, quite crowded, 30 +; pale yellow becoming cream, then red brown as spores mature.

Flesh: thin, bright yellow, unchanging on exposure to air.

Spore print: tobacco brown to rust.

Spores: ellipsoid; 10.5–12.5 × 7.5–9.5 µm; smooth; with a germ pore.

Basidia: short, clavate to almost globose with a short base, 4-spored.

Cheilocystidia: lageniform with a broad, rounded apex.

Pleurocystidia: not seen.

Pileipellis: rounded cells with some intermixed hyphae.

Habitat: growing in frass made by borers at the base of a small tree in an *Araucaria*-dominated rainforest.

Notes: this small fungus with an olive-yellow, viscid cap and yellow stipe with rust-coloured spores may be identifiable in the field, but microscopically the ellipsoid spores with a germ pore and short, almost spherical basidia help confirm its identity. This appears to be the only record for Australia.

Collections examined: QMS P43, Paradise Falls Track, Bunya Mountains National Park, Patrick Leonard, 28 Mar 2009.