

Agaricus aff augustus



Agaricus augustus © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex; up to 140 mm diameter; white background covered in small darkening red brown scales, centre entire red brown; margin appendiculate.

Stipe: cylindrical to subclavate, hollow; 90 - 110 × 12 - 25 mm; with a membranous floppy ring up to 30 mm wide, 0.6 up stipe; white above and sometimes with brown floccules below; glabrous white above ring, small squamules below, concolourous with cap; conspicuous white rhizomorphs attached to stipe base.

Gills: free, pink then gradually brown; lamellulae present in two series.

Flesh: white, becoming yellow brown on bruising and eventually orange brown.

Smell: strongly agaricoid, of aniseed.

Spores: dark brown to black; ellipsoid, 5.6 – 9 × 3.7 – 6.5 µm, Q = 1.47 ± 0.13, somewhat thick walled, no germ pore.

Cheilocystidia: numerous, clavate; 17.5 × 5 µm.

Pileipellis: a cutis with groups of emergent hyphae forming the scales.

Habitat: saprotrophic, common in groups in gardens, parks and at woodland edges in the bush, seemingly in disturbed and nitrogen rich places.

Notes: a large *Agaricus* with a squamulose cap, a smell of aniseed, and flesh which slowly yellows on handling (note that rapidly bright yellow reactions suggest a member of the *Xanthodermi*) define this fungus. Although it has been widely collected in Queensland under this name, the lack of cattenate cystidia and smaller spores suggest it is distinct from the European species.

Collections examined: PL 49408, Buderim garden, 12 April 2008; PL28613, Marcus Beach Section, Noosa National Park, Pat Leonard, 23 June 2013; John Oxley Reserve, Murrumba Downs, 3 Jul 2015.