

Amanita sp 'Big Bennett'



Amanita sp 'Big Bennett' © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex at first but soon becoming plano convex; 90 - 150 mm diameter; areolate, surface cracking into small patches, golden brown, with scarce paler flat velar patches; margin entire.

Stipe: clavate to bulbous; 90 - 200 × 20 - 25 mm; 40 mm wide at bulb; with pendulous annulus; glabrous below ring, with snakeskin markings above.

Gills: adnexed; thick and crowded, no lamellulae, starting white but becoming yellow buff with brown spotting and staining developing.

Flesh: thick, white, some red brown discolouration in stem on cutting..

Taste: not distinctive

Spore print: white.

Spores: ellipsoid; 9.2 - 11.9 × 5.5 - 7.3 μm; average 10.2 ± 0.7 × 6.35 ± 0.5 μm, Q = 1.34 - 2.07, average Q = 1.62 ± 0.15; amyloid, not ornamented.

Basidia: clavate, 55 - 60 × 10 - 12 μm; four spored.

Pleurocystidia: not observed.

Pileipellis: a cutis of thin walled hyphae; velar patches a complex of irregular hyphae as if woven, no inflated cells evident.

Substrate: sandy soil, nutrient poor and acid.

Habitat: in a seasonally flooded Wallum heath dominated by paperbarks (*Melaleuca*)

Notes: this is a massive amanita, growing in the same habitat as *A. aff. rufescens* but distinct in terms of its large size, golden brown colours and larger spores.

Collections examined: PL 770317, Ben Bennett Park, Wayne Boatwright, 18 Mar 17.