

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; four 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