

## *Cortinarius persplendidus*



*Cortinarius persplendidus* © Sapphire McMullan Fisher

**Cap:** hemispherical at first becoming plano-convex in mature specimens; 17-45mm diameter; vivid red to red brown; dry with fine radial fibrils and an in-rolled margin at first.

**Stipe:** broadens towards the base, 50-70 × 10-20mm, pale orange brown with vivid red at apex and orange yellow zone at base; the cortina forms a zone of yellow brown fibrils about  $\frac{3}{4}$  way up the stem; mycelial threads attached to the base of the stem are yellow to orange.

**Gills:** adnexed, closely spaced and vivid red. A drop of 3% KOH placed on the gills will bleed violet or reddish violet colour.

**Spore print:** red brown.

**Spores:** broadly ellipsoid, 7-8 × 6-7.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , yellow-brown, verrucose and thick walled.

**Substrate:** soil.

**Habitat:** forests and woodlands including *Melaleuca* swamp forest under *Corymbia*.

**Frequency:** rare (SEQ).

**Notes:** one of a group of bright red-gilled species, it is distinguished by its strongly warty spore characteristics; formerly known as *Dermocybe splendida*.

**Collections examined:** AQ796240, Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden, Pat Leonard, 7 Jul 2008.