

Daldinia concentrica



Daldinia concentrica © Ray Baxter

Fruiting body: cushion like to hemispherical; 50 × 40 × 30mm; hard, smooth; a rich vinaceous brown (10E6).

Stipe: not stipitate, broadly and firmly attached to substrate.

Flesh: hard, becoming brittle when old; revealing a number of concentric rings when cut vertically, normally alternating between thicker black rings and finer white ones.

Spore print: black.

Spores: ellipsoid, but somewhat flattened on one side; 14.5 - 17.5 × 6.5 - 8.5 µm; not striate.

Asci: each contain 8 spores and they are held in tube like structures just below the surface.

Habitat: growing on large fallen logs of an unknown species in *Araucaria bidwilli* forest.

Notes: the vinaceous brown or black hemispherical to cushion like fruit bodies attached to branches, which have concentric rings when split vertically allow *Daldinia* to be recognised in the field. *D. concentrica* has smooth spores, *D. eschscholzii* striate spores. Spore prints can usually be obtained by placing the fruitbody on a slide and covering with a glass. Examination of sections is more difficult because of the hard nature of the surface.

Collections examined: QMS P32, Paradise Falls Track, Bunya Mountains National Park, Patrick Leonard, 29 March 2009.