



## *Russula neerimea*

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*Russula neerimea* is found in most eucalypt and other forests and woodlands in southern Australia. In the southwest of Western Australia, it's quite a common species found in the wetter areas of jarrah, karri and tingle eucalypt forests. It appears in the early autumn, being one of the first species of *Russula* to fruit, usually amongst deep well-rotted litter.

Caps are about 8cm diameter, honey brown and quite slippery or viscid when fresh. The margin of the cap is thin-fleshed with a distinct grooved or striated pattern corresponding to the gills underneath. Gills are crowded, creamy white to creamy yellow sometimes with brown blotches or bruising. Stems are up to 7cm tall, white, fragile (it will 'snap' quite easily when bent), and feels hollow but cutting it lengthways reveals a characteristic chamber-like internal structure (see above).

The scientific name is a mix of Latin/Greek and Aboriginal elements. *Russ-*: reddish (likely referring to the colour of the Northern hemisphere type specimen for *Russula*, *Russula emetrica*, which has a red cap); *-ula*: pertaining to; *neerim-*: is an Aboriginal word meaning *high* referring to Mt Lofty where the original specimen for this species was found; *-ea*: pertaining to or belonging to.