ID: Cap reddish-brown (center darker in age), often w/ light margin; may have red droplets. Fertile surface buff/deep brown w/ decurrent spines.

Habitat: Solitary, sometimes fused into groups. On ground under conifer forests. (Ours were at the edge of a mixed forest in sandy soil.)

Cap: 1.2 – 3.2” [3 - 8 cm]
Reddish-/grayish-brown w/ light margin, flat to concave irregular but velvety surface. Flesh fibrous and tough, pale when young, dark brown in age. Exudes clear red drops which leave black pits. Faint pungent odor.

Fertile surface: Spines (1/16 – 1/4” [1 – 5 mm]), buff/deep brown often w/ lighter tips; decurrent. Tooth layer <= 1.5 mm when young.

Stalk: 0.2 – 2” x 0.4 – 1.2” [0.5 – 5 cm x 1.6 – 3 cm]
White (brown in age), short, thick. Stalks often merge into a shapeless mass.

Spores: Blackish-brown. Nearly round, covered w/ rounded tubercules.

Frequency: Uncommon.

Locations: BIGBR.

Notes: Mycobank 414442. Big Branch specimen identified by examination of spores by R. Solem. References say starts out as a light-colored column; apex expands to form a cap which may fuse into adjoining caps. Taste of 9/2/2014 specimens initially mild; acrid flavor developed slowly.


SPORES (4.5 – 5.2 X 4.3 – 4.5 μm):
Big Branch, 9/2/2014, R. Solem.