



GILLS, STALK, CAP: Rockburn Branch Park, 9/22/2009, *R. Solem*.
 GILLS and CAP: Rockburn Branch Park, 10/13/2008, *J. Solem*.

Blushing Russula

Russula nigricans complex
 Russulaceae

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ID: Flesh stains bright orange/red, then blackish. Cap whitish (blackish-brown in age); tacky when young, often cracked in age. Acrid taste.

Habitat: Solitary, scattered, groups. On ground in moss/leaves in conifer and hardwood forests.

Cap: 2 – 5.9" [5 – 15 cm]

Whitish (brownish/blackish-brown in age). Tacky when young, then dry; often cracked/fissured in age. Felty. Convex (broadly convex/nearly flat w/ sunken center in age). Cuticle peels 3/4 to center. Flesh white; stains bright orange/red, then brownish/black. Taste slowly acrid.

Gills: Whitish; stain bright reddish, then black. Attached to collar. Broad. Brittle.

Spores: *White*/pale cream.

Stalk: 1.1 – 3.1" x 0.4 – 1.5" [3 – 8 cm x 1 – 4 cm]

Whitish. Stains like cap. Some reticulation. Cylindrical. Flesh white. Solid.

Frequency: Uncommon.

Locations: NOLAP, RKBPRP.

Notes: Mycobank 211757. Stains hands red. *Russula nigricans* is part of a cluster of several species (Kuo).

References: Bar 311. BBF 245, 309. BBH 82. Bin 201. Kuo. Phi 128.