

Ganoderma applanatum/australe (Artist's fungus/Southern bracket)

Principal species colonised

Many broadleaved hosts and occasionally on conifers.

Area affected

Generally at buttress level but may often be found on the main stems of trees several metres above ground level and sometimes in major limbs.

Type of decay

Early decay is localised white-rot which develops along the rays. As decay advances full degradation of the lignin occurs leaving a spongy mass of white cellulose.



Fruit body

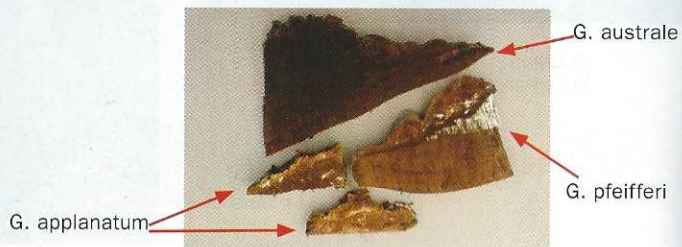
Description A perennial woody bracket, up to 500mm across and 150mm thick. Forming singly or in overlapping tiers. The brackets are generally dark matt brown above with a white pore layer underneath. In active growth the pore layer is visible as a white margin. The spores are reddish-brown and often coat the tops of the brackets and the surrounding bark. Beneath the woody crust, which is brittle in *G. applanatum* but very firm in *G. australe*, the flesh is thick and hard but felt-like. *G. applanatum* is milky coffee coloured and dark chestnut brown in *australe*.

Season and persistence Perennial, forming successive pore layers over many years.

Impact/Effect/Significance

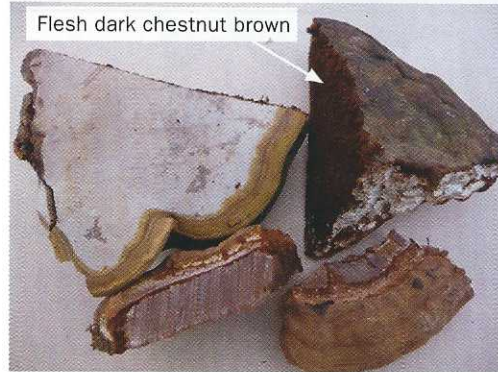
Ganoderma australe has some ability to extend into previously sound sapwood, whereas *G. applanatum* is mainly confined to already damaged wood. When advanced and extensive, the decay can result in mechanical failure of the stem base or rootplate. Partially decayed wood retains tensile strength for considerable time and there is often compensatory growth of surrounding wood. Thus, the strength of the residual wall often remains within acceptable tolerances for many years.

Comparison



Two species that are difficult to specifically identify in the field: *G. australe* has a thick red/brown flesh whilst *G. applanatum* is milky coffee coloured. *G. australe* will not have insect galls on its spore-bearing surface. These may or may not be found on *G. applanatum*.

Ganoderma australe



Ganoderma applanatum

