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## *Macrolepiota clelandii* — slender parasol

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It is easy to see why *Macrolepiota clelandii* is commonly called the slender or graceful parasol fungus. It inhabits eucalypt forests and woodlands in southern and eastern Australia. In the southwest, the slender parasol is common in both jarrah and karri forests in late autumn and early winter. It may also appear in early spring with the right conditions. It appears to like some disturbance, and is common along forest road sides, and amongst slash in recently thinned karri regrowth forests. It can also be found on lawns or grassed areas of parks.

This tall elegant mushroom grows up to 20cm tall. Caps may be up to 10cm broad, pale brown with distinctive dark brown scale-like patches on the surface. Gills are creamy white and are very crowded. Stems are tall and slender; brown, with a smooth surface, a bulbous base and a prominent loose ring just below the cap.

Because it is tall, the perfectly symmetrical white gills do not get splashed with mud during heavy rain and are generally very clean (*see inset*). Note the gills are also free from the stem.

The scientific name refers to its stature and also honours the prominent South Australian naturalist and mycologist Dr JB Cleland (1878-1921). *Macr*:- large or long, *lepi*:- scale, *clelandii*; after Dr JB Cleland.