



The velvet parachute (*Marasmius elegans*): a surprisingly variable species across its range with an uncanny QLD doppelganger.

Frances E. Guard (University of Southern Queensland); John Dearnaley (University of Southern Queensland); Teresa Lebel (State Herbarium of South Australia).

1. First described in SA by John Cleland in 1933, *Marasmius elegans* has been recorded across southern Australia and in New Zealand. Specimens from southeast Queensland were generally less robust and considered a possible second species. The first QLD specimen sequenced supported this hypothesis, as did significant microscopic character differences of the stipe. However, a study of multiple collections from across the full putative range of *M. elegans*, showed the species does occur in Queensland, but a more complex picture has emerged. The material examined is highly variable across the geographic range, but molecularly shows less than 4bp difference in the ITS gene from SA to QLD & NZ. Western Australia is an outlier and more specimens need to be sequenced. But that QLD doppelganger?

Frances Guard: franguard@icloud.com