

## *Ileodictyon cibarium*



*Ileodictyon cibarium* © Pat Leonard

**Fruit body:** white, open-lattice cage, diameter to 250 mm, the arms are joined to create a cage-like structure with up to 30 fairly regular polygonal-shaped spaces in the net; the arms may join so symmetrically that, if the receptacle detaches from the volva, it is not possible to tell the top from the bottom; there is no noticeable thickening where the arms join; up to 10 mm wide and elliptical in cross-section, marked with creases. The surfaces may be smooth or wrinkled across the width; the outer surface may also be pitted or grooved along the length. There is some variation in the internal structure of the arms. Some have a single tube that runs the length of the arm, or two tubes or, in rare cases, three tubes running side by side.

**Egg:** dirty white, smooth-skinned with dimples reflecting the net-like structure of the not-yet expanded arms within, up to 70 mm diameter, with white rhizomorphs at the base. The egg remnants are seen as a whitish volva at the base, however, the receptacle often detaches from this and may be carried by the wind for some distance from its place of origin.

**Stipe:** absent, in very rare cases the arms may be fused to form a small tube-like stipe.

**Flesh:** brittle and spongy.

**Spore mass (Gleba):** olive-brown or sage-green, thick and slimy, carried on the entire inner surface of the arms.

**Smell:** foetid, of rotting meat or faeces, and “faint, smelling of cheese”.

**Spores:** elongate/cylindric;  $4 - 6 \times 1.8 - 3.3 \mu\text{m}$ ; smooth, hyaline or very pale brown.

**Substrate:** soil, leaf litter or woodchip mulch.

**Habitat:** alongside roads and tracks, in woods and forests; may be in an exposed area or under bushes; fruits year-round in tropical and subtropical areas.

**Notes:** this species has often been confused with *Ileodictyon gracilis*. It is of similar size, shape and colour, but it differs by having wrinkled arms, which are not appreciably thickened at their junction with one another, and which are elliptical in cross-section. The arms are 4-5 times as wide as those of *Ileodictyon gracilis*.