

## *Scleroderma paradoxum*



*Scleroderma paradoxum* © Bruce Fuhrer

**Fruit body:** pyriform, subglobose, or lobed, tuber like; 5 – 15 mm diameter; covered in rounded warts which wash off (fall off?) leaving a pattern; pale to dark brown.

**Stipe:** absent but with numerous white branched rhizomorphs.

**Gleba:** purplish brown almost black with white tramal plates embedded (but not chambered).

**Flesh:** thin, up to 1 mm, whitish.

**Spore print:** very dark brown.

**Spores:** globose;  $8 - 19 \times 8 - 19 \mu\text{m}$ ; densely covered in spines to  $3.5 \mu\text{m}$  high.

**Basidia:** 3 or four spored, spores sessile.

**Habitat:** solitary in *Eucalyptus* forests.

**Notes:** this small earthball was at first thought not to be a *Scleroderma*, hence its name. It is small, the spores are globose but very variable in size, but have large spines that cover the whole spore.

**Collections examined:** reported to be collected in Queensland but there is no collection under this name in BRI, nor is it under *Scleroderma* sp, so it may have been misidentified.