

Lycoperdon perlatum



Lycoperdon perlatum © Susan Nelles

Fruiting body: peridium pyriform (like a pear upside down) with a prominent white base; 20 – 45 mm diameter; glabrous, with low warts and conical white spines 1 – 2 mm long, on the upper surface; spines wash off leaving a distinctive reticulate pattern on older fruiting bodies..

Stipe: white to pale cream; 50 × 20 mm, more or less cylindrical with rooting rhizomorphs at the base.

Endoperidium: grey brown, smooth, somewhat shiny.

Gleba: fibrous mass containing the spores; olivaceous brown when the spores are mature.

Taste: unknown.

Spore print: olivaceous brown.

Spores: globose to subglobose; 4 – 5.6 × 4 – 5.6 μm, average 4.8 × 4.8 μm, Q = 1 (fide Grgurinovic); with a long pedicel; minutely warted.

Substrate: in litter and soil on the ground.

Habitat: in a range of forest type and in parks and gardens.

Collections examined:

Notes: This common white puffball with white spines on its top surface is relatively easy to identify in the field. It can be confused with *Lycoperdon pyriforme* but that species is always found growing on wood and has almost smooth spores.