

Pisolithus marmoratus



Pisolithus marmoratus © Pat Leonard

Fruiting body: ovoid, gasteroid; 60 - 100 × 35 - 180 mm; pale almost white at first, becoming shiny with brown or black warts mottled with gold.

Stipe: rooting stem cylindrical; 20 × 15 mm; black, often buried.

Flesh: granular ovoid cells ochraceous to umber, surrounded by paler tissue contained in a thick walled and dark staining gleba

Spores: globose to subglobose; 7 - 12 × 7 - 9 μm; thick walled; echinulate, with spines to 1.5 μm

Basidia: absent.

Pileipellis: not examined.

Habitat: growing in pure sand in dry sclerophyll woodland, also in parks gardens and along roadsides.

Notes: very variable in both size and appearance, the relatively large, horse dung like gleba, shiny black or brown outer wall and partially or mostly buried pseudostem seem to be good characters. The spores are larger than those of *P. microcarpus*, and echinulate as opposed to reticulate in *P. croceorhizus*. There is some evidence that this fungus was eaten in Central Australia.

Collections examined: PL 34409, Noosa National Park, Marcus Beach section, Patrick Leonard, 10 Apr 09.