

## *Aseroe arachnoidea*



*Aseroe arachnoidea* © University of Hawaii

**Egg:** white to grey, smooth-skinned, to 30 mm diameter, with white rhizomorphs at the base. The egg remnants are seen as a gelatinous, white volva at the base of the mature fruiting body's stem.

**Pileus:** the stipe is topped by a disc and a radiating ring of 8 -12 separate, white, tentacle-like arms; 40 × 6 mm; tapering towards the tip, hollow with a single chamber; some of the tips may be linked by cobweb like threads.

**Stipe:** cylindrical but tapering a little towards the base, hollow, sometimes with a round opening at the top; 100 × 25 mm; wall is composed of a cellular structure, surface may be slightly wrinkled; white.

**Gleba (Spore mass):** carried on the disc or the base of the arms; black, with a thick, slimy texture.

**Flesh:** spongy.

**Smell:** foetid, like rotting meat or sewage.

**Spore print:** olivaceous black.

**Spores:** elongate ellipsoid; 2.5 – 3.5 × 1.5 – 2 μm; smooth, hyaline.

**Substrate:** on litter and wood chip mulch in Queensland but found on dung heaps in China and on lawns in Hawaii.

**Habitat:** occurring singly or in large groups, and only known from North Queensland.

**Material examined:**

**Notes:** *Aseroe arachnoidea* is easily recognised by its vivid white cylindrical stem and 8 – 12 radiating arms, some of which may be linked by cobweb like threads. It may be an introduced species in Queensland.