

*Aseroë arachnoidea* E. Fisch., 1890

**Description:** A white, tapering stipe topped by a radiating ring of white, tentacle-like arms.

**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 stipe.

**Stipe:** White, to 100 mm high and to 25 mm diameter, cylindrical but tapering a little towards the base. Hollow, sometimes with a round opening at the top. Surface may be slightly wrinkled. Wall is composed of a cellular structure.

**Disc:** A flattened plate of tissue that, on maturity, might be a complete diaphragm or be perforated.



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**Arms:** 8-12, white, brittle, radiating from the top of the stipe like the rays of a star, to 40 mm long and 6 mm wide at the base, tapering towards the tip. The arms consist of a single, hollow tube. The tips of some of the arms may be joined together.

**Gleba:** Carried on the disc or also extending a short distance along the upper surface of the proximal end of the arms. Black, with a thick, slimy texture. Strongly foetid odour.

**Spores:** 2.5-3.5 x 1.5-2  $\mu\text{m}$ , elongate, smooth, hyaline.

**Habitat:** Coarse compost (Australia), dung heap (China), as fairy rings in lawns (Hawai'i).

**Notes:** Description from the University of Hawai'i's website: "It will actually look like there are black lumps on the lawns when this fungus reproduces, but they are actually piles of flies feeding on the gleba of individual fruiting bodies."

[http://www2.hawaii.edu/~baperry/Species\\_Descriptions/A\\_arachnoidea.html](http://www2.hawaii.edu/~baperry/Species_Descriptions/A_arachnoidea.html)