

Bovista cunninghamii



Bovista cunninghamii © Pat Leonard

Fruiting body: irregularly ovoid, lobed; 20 - 25 mm diameter; covered in small mealy squamules which rub off; white.

Exoperidium: white, thin.

Stipe: a small dark coloured rooting strand is present; 20 – 30 × 1 – 2 mm.

Endoperidium: white.

Gleba: pale cream to pale yellow becoming olivaceous with age; somewhat viscid in fresh specimens.

Flesh: white, becoming very pale yellow.

Smell: distinctive, sweet, like plum blossom.

Spores: subglobose, 4.2 – 5.5 × 3.8 – 4.5 µm, Q = 1.15; very faintly ornamented; with a straight pedicel up to 1.5 µm long with a truncate end.

Substrate: growing in almost pure sand.

Habitat: wallum, in a grassy patch where *Allocasuarina littoralis* is the dominant tree species.

Notes: this small white puffball is immediately identifiable by its minute squamules (view with lens) and its distinctive rooting strand.

Collections examined: PL9613, Marcus Beach Section, Noosa National Park, Pat Leonard, 15 Jun 2013.