

## *Scleroderma albidum*



*Scleroderma albidum* © ?

**Fruit body:** pyriform (like an upturned pear), subturbinate, lobed; 30 – 60 mm diameter; sometimes smooth, almost always areolate at least at the apex; cream to yellowish with ochraceous warts; breaking open in a regular stellate way (like a Geastrum) at maturity.

**Stipe:** generally absent but occasionally found with a distinct pseudostipe.

**Gleba:** deep violaceous brown to black.

**Flesh:** thin, cream colour, bruising orange to red on cutting.

**Spore print:** very dark brown.

**Spores:** globose;  $13.5 - 16 \times 13.5 - 16 \mu\text{m}$ ; echinulate; spines to  $1.5 \mu\text{m}$  high

**Basidia:** not seen.

**Habitat:** common in sclerophyll forests under *Eucalyptus*.

**Notes:** Guzman says this fungus was misnamed by Patouillard who based the description on an immature specimen from Tunisia which was white. The main distinction between this species and *S. polyrhizum* is spore ornamentation and size!

**Collections examined:**