

Solioccassus polychromus



Solioccassus polychromus © Jessa Thurman

Fruiting body: a hypogeous ovoid to globose truffle with an irregularly lobed surface; 30-35 mm in diameter; yellowish orange to reddish orange soon becoming brownish orange; surface appears fibrous/roughened in places.

Stipe: absent, but there are rhizomorphs visible at the base.

Gleba: loculate with a distinct columella; coloured as surface or reported with pinkish tones.

Flesh: rubbery, cartilaginous.

Smell: not distinctive.

Spore print: not obtained, but dried gleba is deep brown.

Spores: subfusoid, boletoid; $15 \times 7 \mu\text{m}$, $Q = 2.1$; smooth and pale yellow under the light microscope with a distinctive thick wall.

Basidia: clavate, four spored.

Cheilocystidia: not observed.

Pleurocystidia: not observed.

Pileipellis: a trichoderm.

Habitat: in sclerophyll forest (Wallum) on sand dunes.

Notes: this truffle is recognized by a combination of its bright yellowish or reddish orange colours, a loculate gleba and thick walled boletoid spores. It appears to be restricted to subtropical coastal areas with sand dunes.

Collections examined: Cooloola Bioblitz; track near Carlo sandblow; Jessa Thurman, 15 May 2021.