

Geastrum ambiguum



Geastrum ambiguum © Judith Hewett

Fruiting body: an earthstar with the exoperidium splitting into several rays with the endoperidial body globose and sessile.

Exoperidium: splitting into about 7 – 10 involute rays which remain folded under the endoperidium; 30 – 50 mm diameter; dark brown inner surface, brown roughened outer surface covered in debris.

Endoperidium: sessile; 10 – 18 mm diameter; globose, sometimes depressed at the top; dingy white to grey and asperate (slightly granular).

Peristome: conical, sulcate (pleated), about 30 pleats which are darker towards the base.

Spore print: brown.

Spores: globose; 4 – 6 μm ; finely verrucose.

Habitat: in a small group of four in forest litter.

Notes: distinguished from *Geastrum clelandii* by the sessile endoperidium and from other *Geastrums* by the combination of clearly sulcate peristome, grey and asperate endoperidium and the finely verrucose spores 4 – 6 μm in diameter. Cunningham has this species as *Geastrum drummondii* (Berk.) but Montagne's name *G. ambiguum* is now generally accepted for this species.

Collections examined: JH1, Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary, Bli Bli, Queensland, 10 April 2022, Judith Hewett.