

Geastrum austrimum



Geastrum austrimum © Pat Leonard

Exoperidium: white, breaking into ± 8 rays, somewhat recurved and trapping debris; up to 15 mm diameter.

Endoperidium: ovoid, pale grey; 5×5 mm; covered in white, farinaceous, fugacious warts.

Peristome: fimbriate, dark grey.

Stipe: white, cylindrical, $1 - 2 \times 1$ mm.

Flesh: thin.

Spore print: brown ochraceous.

Spores: globose; $4 - 5 \times 4 - 5$ μm excluding ornamentation, with prominent blunt warts to ± 1 μm .

Habitat: growing singly in litter consisting mainly of *Eucalyptus* leaves and bark in an open dry sclerophyll forest.

Notes: the small size of this earthstar combined with the grey fimbriate peridium and presence of a short stem may allow it to be identified in the field. It differs from the smaller *Geastrum* sp by having a stem and larger spores.

Collections examined: PL14309, Peach Trees, Jimna State Forest, P. Leonard, 19 Mar 2009; PL620321, Banksia trail, Bribie Island National Park, Pat Leonard, 25 Mar 2021; PL130422, Annie Hehir Reserve (near Peachester), David Moss, 23 Apr 2022.