

Geastrum sp



Geastrum sp © Judith Hewett

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

Exoperidium: splitting into about 5 rays which remain folded around the endoperidium; 3 – 5 mm diameter; cream to pale umber inner surface, brown asperate roughened outer surface.

Endoperidium: sessile; 2.5 – 3 mm diameter; globose with a fibrillose peristome with a sharply defined margin; dark grey to grey brown and slightly asperate (granular surface) with a pale ring around the peristome.

Peristome: conical, fibrillose, dark grey to almost black.

Spore print: brown.

Spores: globose; 3 – 4 μ m; barely verrucose.

Habitat: in a large caespitose group on a log in a wetland area.

Notes: not easy to distinguish from *Geastrum austrominimum* which is a little larger. The combination of a very small sessile endoperidium which is dark grey, enclosed by 5 rays and barely verrucose spores 3 – 4 μ m in diameter determine this species.

Collections examined: JH2, Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary, Bli Bli, Queensland, Judith Hewett, 11 Apr 2022.