

## *Calvatia caelata*



*Calvatia caelata* © Pat Leonard

**Fruiting body:** ovoid, pyriform; 30 – 40 × 20 – 30 mm; with a crenulate underside and a distinct rooting base; orange brown, pale tobacco brown.

**Endoperidium:** dense white flesh at first becoming brown as the spores develop with a white sterile base.

**Flesh:** white but rapidly staining yellow on exposure to air.

**Spore print:**

**Spores:** globose; 4.5 – 5.5 µm, smooth.

**Habitat:** in litter/mulch in Wallum that has been modified by some garden planting.

**Notes:** a small *Calvatia*-like puffball with yellow-staining flesh and smooth spores. Cunningham identifies this as *Calvatia caelata*. This name has an odd history: in 1995 Pegler et al. synonymised it with *Handkea utrifomis*. MycoBank lists 13 other synonyms. Then in 2017 Demoulin transferred this to the genus *Bovistella* on the basis of evidence from collections from Siberia. This collection meets Cunningham's description and differs from that given by Pegler. The last record of *C. caelata* in Australia dates from 1931.

**Collections examined:** PL690321, Bribie Island National Park, Susie Webster, 25 Mar 2021.