

Poronia punctata



Poronia punctata © Glenda Walter

Fruiting body: a flattened disc on top of a long black stem, resembling a nail; disc 3 – 12 mm diameter; whitish but with black dots where the perithecia emerge when mature.

Stipe: cylindrical, swollen towards base; 5 – 20 mm tall; black.

Spore print: black, greyish black.

Spores: bean shaped; 20 – 25 × 8 – 12 µm; smooth.

Asci: not observed.

Habitat: growing on horse dung from horses eating natural vegetation and not fed antibiotics.

Notes: numerous fruiting bodies of the nail fungus were found on this particular lot of horse manure. It appears that this fungus is in decline owing to the reduction in the number of horses and changes in their feed and or in veterinary practices.

Collections examined: PL460319, Buderim garden, Patrick Leonard, 23 March 2019; Toowoomba Garden, Glenda Walters, 21 Mar 2021.