

## *Soliococcus polychromus*



### *Soliococcus polychromus* © Jessa Thurman

**Fruiting body:** a hypogeous ovoid to globose truffle with an irregularly lobed surface; 30 – 35 mm in diameter; yellowish orange to reddish orange soon becoming brownish orange; surface appears fibrous/roughened in places.

**Stipe:** absent, but there are rhizomorphs visible at the base.

**Gleba:** loculate with a distinct columella; coloured as surface or reported with pinkish tones.

**Flesh:** rubbery, cartilaginous.

**Smell:** not distinctive.

**Spore print:** not obtained, but dried gleba is deep brown.

**Spores:** subfusoid, boletoid;  $15 \times 7 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $Q = 2.1$ ; smooth and pale yellow under the light microscope with a distinctive thick wall.

**Basidia:** clavate, four-spored.

**Cheilocystidia:** not observed.

**Pleurocystidia:** not observed.

**Pileipellis:** a trichoderm.

**Habitat:** in sclerophyll forest (Wallum) on sand dunes.

**Notes:** this truffle is recognized by a combination of its bright yellowish or reddish orange colours, a loculate gleba and thick-walled boletoid spores. It appears to be restricted to subtropical coastal areas with sand dunes.

**Collections examined:** Cooloola Bioblitz; track near Carlo sandblow; Jessa Thurman, 15 May 2021.