

Stropharia semiglobata



Stropharia semiglobata © Patrick Leonard

Cap: hemispherical at first, becoming convex with a broad umbo; 10 - 50 mm diameter; glabrous; viscid, at least when fresh; white with a slight ochraceous or yellow tint towards the centre of the cap.

Stipe: cylindrical with a swollen base in some collections; 40 - 150 × 2 - 3 mm; glabrous, viscid; white with an ochre or yellow tinge; older specimens appear to have fibrils that are blackened by the spores.

Gills: adnexed; purplish brown, spotted, becoming sepia as the spores mature; with a white, sterile, fimbriate edge.

Flesh: off white and thin.

Spore print: black.

Spores: ellipsoid; 15 - 17 × 9 - 10 µm; thick walled, with a germ pore.

Basidia: clavate; 15 - 30 × 8 - 10 µm; four spored.

Cheilocystidia: thin walled; lageniform; appear to have an irregular vacuole; surrounded by simple clavate pseudocystidia creating a sterile gill edge.

Pleurocystidia: absent.

Pileipellis: an ixocutis.

Habitat: on dung, usually horse dung but also reported on the dung of other herbivores. Probably introduced to Australia with horses.

Notes: a remarkably tall pale fungus on horse dung with almost black spore and a white gill edge should be easy to identify.

Collections examined: PL 470319, Buderim garden, Patrick Leonard, 23 March 2019.