

Aseroe arachnoidea



Aseroe arachnoidea © University of Hawaii

Egg: white to grey, smooth-skinned, to 30 mm diameter, with white rhizomorphs at the base. The egg remnants are seen as a gelatinous, white volva at the base of the mature fruiting body's stem.

Pileus: the stipe is topped by a disc and a radiating ring of 8–12 separate, white, tentacle-like arms; 40 × 6 mm; tapering towards the tip, hollow with a single chamber; some of the tips may be linked by cobweb-like threads.

Stipe: cylindrical, but tapering a little towards the base; hollow, sometimes with a round opening at the top; 100 × 25 mm; wall is composed of a cellular structure, surface may be slightly wrinkled; white.

Gleba (Spore mass): carried on the disc or the base of the arms; black, with a thick, slimy texture.

Flesh: spongy.

Smell: foetid, like rotting meat or sewage.

Spore print: olivaceous black.

Spores: elongate ellipsoid; 2.5–3.5 × 1.5–2 µm; smooth, hyaline.

Substrate: found on dung heaps in China and on lawns in Hawaii, and only known from two collections in North Queensland, on litter and wood chip mulch.

Habitat: occurring singly or in large groups on a variety of substrates including dung and potting mix.

Material examined:

Notes: *Aseroe arachnoidea* is easily recognised by its vivid white cylindrical stem and 8–12 radiating arms, some of which may be linked by cobweb-like threads. It may be an introduced species in Queensland.