

*Calvatia gigantea*



*Calvatia gigantea* © Pat Leonard

**Cap:** fruiting body consists of a gleba (head) and very reduced stalk; 60 - 150 mm diameter; smooth at first, but upper surface cracking in irregular scales; spore mass; white with a slight yellowish tint at first.

**Stipe:** more or less tapering; 90 × 70 mm; white, with glabrous surface above, but pale brown below with substrate attached and with a distinct rhizoid.

**Flesh:** a distinct diaphragm separates the yellowish white spongy gleba from the more fibrous spongy pale tan to brown flesh in the stipe.

**Spores:** white; globose, warty; 4 - 6 µm; without pedicels.

**Habitat:** growing in soil amongst grass on roadside verges, but also reported from pasture and parkland habitats.

**Notes:** the distinctive brain shape, large size and cellular appearance of the cap surface define this fungus.

**Collections examined:** PL 160317, Pat Leonard, Mt Tully Road, Stanthorpe, 9 Mar 2017.