

Comatricha cf. rigidireta Nann.-Bremek

MEL 0776

Date 9 Sept. 2016. Black Sugarloaf, Birralee (home).

Habitat: Closed wet Eucalypt forest.

Substrate Eucalypt bark, firewood pile.

Description several scattered groups of gregarious stalked sporangia, 1–2 mm high. **Sporotheca** globose to sub-globose, 0.5–0.8 mm diameter, dark brown. **Stalk** subulate (widely attached to substrate), flattened, 1.2–1.3 mm long, black; base reddish brown and fibrous in transmitted light. **Hypothallus** contiguous under groups, membranous, reddish brown.

Peridium fugacious. **Columella** reaches about the centre of the sporotheca where it ends abruptly. **Capillitium** attached along columella, the threads simple, sparsely branching and anastomosing with numerous free ends. **Spores** dark brown in mass, light brown in transmitted light with pale germination area, sparsely warted, 11–12(-14) μm .

Notes spores similar in size and decoration to *C. rigidireta* but it has a shorter stalk and the capillitium lacks the surface net characteristic of that species. Ref: Poulain et al. 2011.

