Comatricha aff. ellae Harkonen

Date 29 June 2016. Black Sugarloaf, Birralee (home). **Habitat**: Open Eucalypt forest.

Substrate: Eucalypt log on firewood pile. **Description**: Scattered stalked ovoid sporangia 1.3–1.5(2) mm high x 0.4–0.5 mm wide. **Sporotheca** ovoid, brown 0.5–0.7 mm high x 0.4–0.5 mm wide. **Stalk** subulate, about half the height of the sporangia, black, 0.7–0.9 mm; fibrous and netted at base. **Hypothallus** discoid, yellow brown. **Peridium** fugacious except for collar at stalk apex. **Columella** reaches about 7% of sporotheca where it divides into several strong branches. **Capillitium** sparse, attached along full length of columella; large-meshed surface net with some free ends. **Spores** dark brown in mass, brown by transmitted light, warted, 7.5–9 μm.

Notes: Keys out to *C. ellae* in Poulain *et al.* and N.E.-N.-B. except for ovoid rather than globose sporangia. *C. laxa* is a similar (and very variable) species but it lacks a surface net and its stalk is usually less than half the total height or sporangia.







