Comatricha alta Preuss

0008 & 0009

Date 26 Jul. & 2 Aug. 2014. Black Sugarloaf (Thismia gully). Habitat: Closed wet Eucalypt forest. Substrate: Bark of dead fallen *Eucalyptus obliqua*. Description: Gregarious stalked sporangia to 7 mm high. Sporotheca ovate to short cylindric, brown, 0.8 mm long. Hypothallus contiguous under groups, yellow brown. Stalk long, subulate, black; fibrous and reticulate at base by transmitted light. Peridium fugacious. Columella extending to apex of sporotheca, slightly widened at apex. Capillitium attached along length of columella eventually forming a plume, looped with some free swollen ends, brown, 1 μm wide. Spores: dark brown in mass, brown by transmitted light, warted, 9 μm.

Notes: Small groups first appeared on the bark of a dead *Eucalyptus obliqua* not long after it fell in early April 2014. New clusters appeared after each bout of rain and in mid July 2014 there were numerous clusters at various stages of maturity (fully mature and still white 'beads') all within about 1 metre of each other.

Collection #377 (20 Sept. 2015) was lodged at MEL.









