

Earthstar Puffball
 Earthstar Scleroderma
 Star Earthball

Scleroderma polyrhizum
 (J.F. Gmelin) Persoon

[Scleroderma polyrhizum](#)
 Sclerodermataceae



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ID: Body dingy/pale yellow-brown, darker in age, splits into 4 – 8 petals; thick-walled; spherical/irregular when closed. Spores purplish/blackish-brown, firm, somewhat marbled, powdery at maturity. Odor unpleasant.

Habitat: Forms underground. Solitary, groups. In pine forests, along roads, on hillsides, etc.

Fruiting Body: 1.5 – 4.5" (<= 6" when open) [2.5 – 10 cm; to 15.5 cm] Spherical/ellipsoid/irregular when closed; resembles a starfish or a flower when open. Thick-walled (3 – 5 mm). Odor unpleasant.

Surface: Dingy white/straw-colored/pale yellow-brown; rough areolate to somewhat scaly. Splits into 4 - 8 (usually 5) star-like rays to expose spore case.

Spores: Brown/purplish/blackish-brown; gleba somewhat marbled when young; firm; powdery at maturity. Round, rougnened..

Frequency: Very common.

Locations: BIGBR, BRNBR, DFWMP. EBERT, GATWY, GUIPK, HAMVL, HIRIP, NOLAP, OTHER, PIGTL, RIVHL, RKBPR, ROBNC, SLMLP, TUFTS, LKELK, WSTRP.

Synonyms: *S. geaster*. *S. polyrhizon*.

Notes: Mycobank 414483. North Laurel Park specimen identified by examination of spores by R. Solem.

References: BBF 456, 459. BBH 332. RBBB 321, 86. E&S 357. Lin 839, 642. M&M 465. Phi 335. W&L 210-1.

OVERALL (mature spores): River Hill, Clarksville, 11/14/2008, S. Earp.
 MATURE FRUITING River Hill, Clarksville, 10/8/2014, J. Harris.
 OLD: Angelina Circle, Columbia, 11/1/2008, J. Solem.
 OVERALL (mature spores): North Laurel Park, 9/12/2008, J. Solem.
 SPORES (8.6-10.1 µm): North Laurel Park, 9/12/2008, J. Solem.