***Didymium squamulosum* (Alb. & Schwein.) Fr. SM77 (= PDD 110450) – keying nicely in Stephenson, S.L. 2003. Myxomycetes of New Zealand. Fungi of New Zealand. Volume 3. Fungal Diversity Research Series 11: 1–238. See also the same species [collection SM66 (= PDD 110439)] which was also found on dead nikau palm fronds in Remutaka Forest Park (17 Sept. 2010)**

**Collected:** 17 February 2016 on fallen dead nikau palm frond

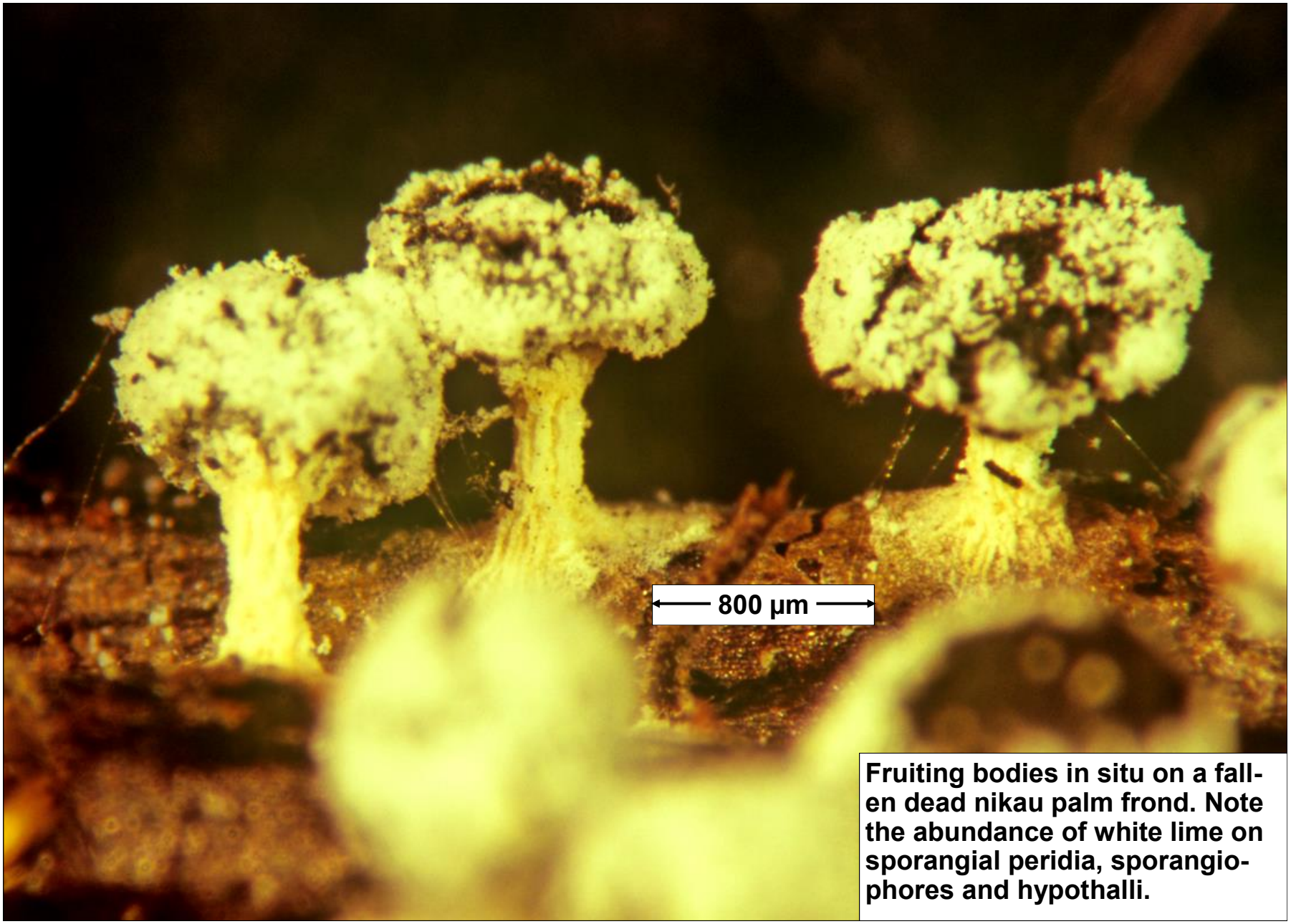
**Collection site:** Remutaka Forest Park – Orongorongo Track

**Collected by:** Ann Bell

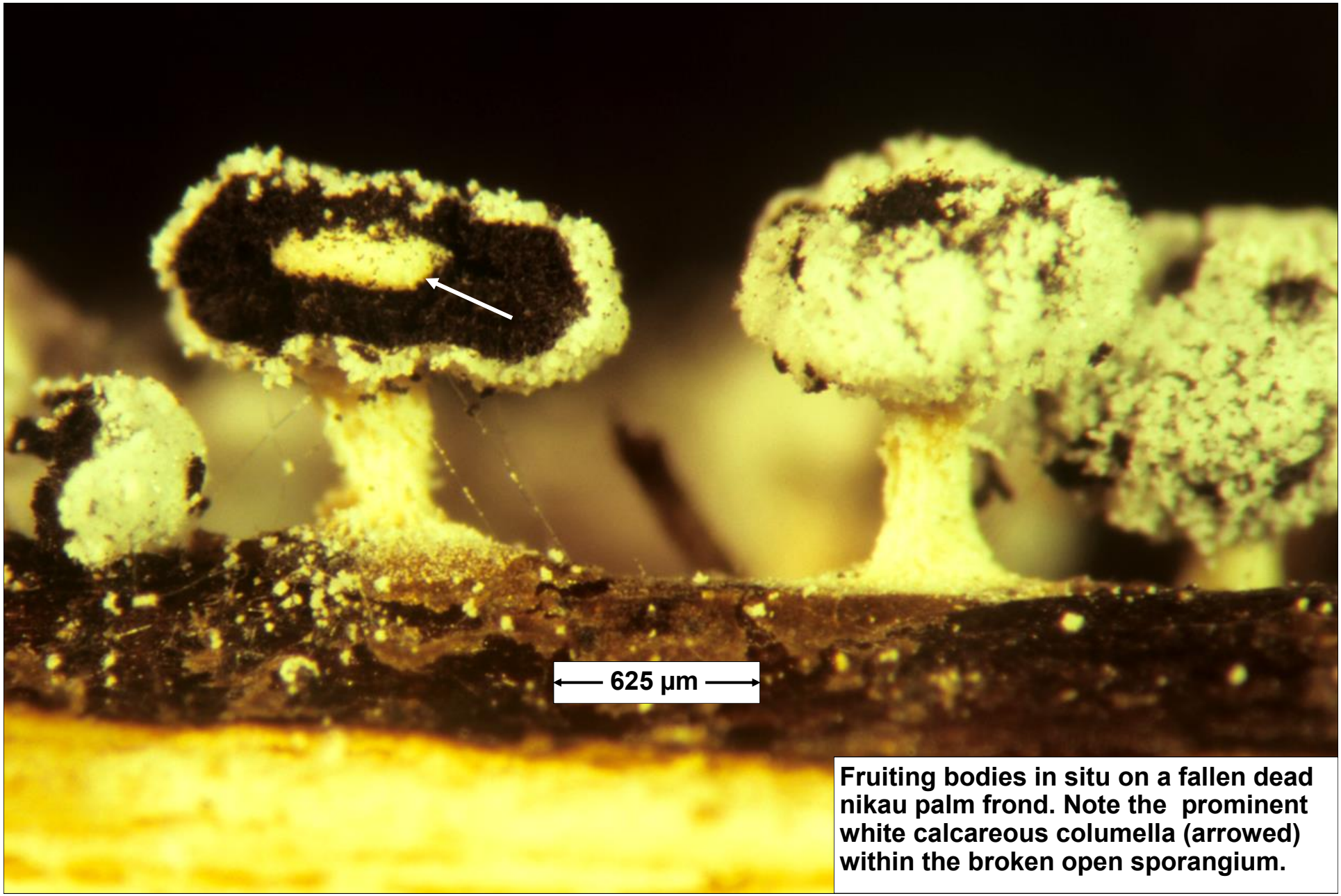
**Identified by:** Dan Mahoney

**Voucher materials:** Dried herbarium specimen SM77 (= PDD 110450) accompanied by 2 Shear's mounting fluid (SMF) semi-permanent slides; Dan's in situ photos of fresh fruiting bodies under the Zeiss dissecting scope and his compound scope digital photos of microscopic detail in SMF slide mounts; Dan's brief description & comments.

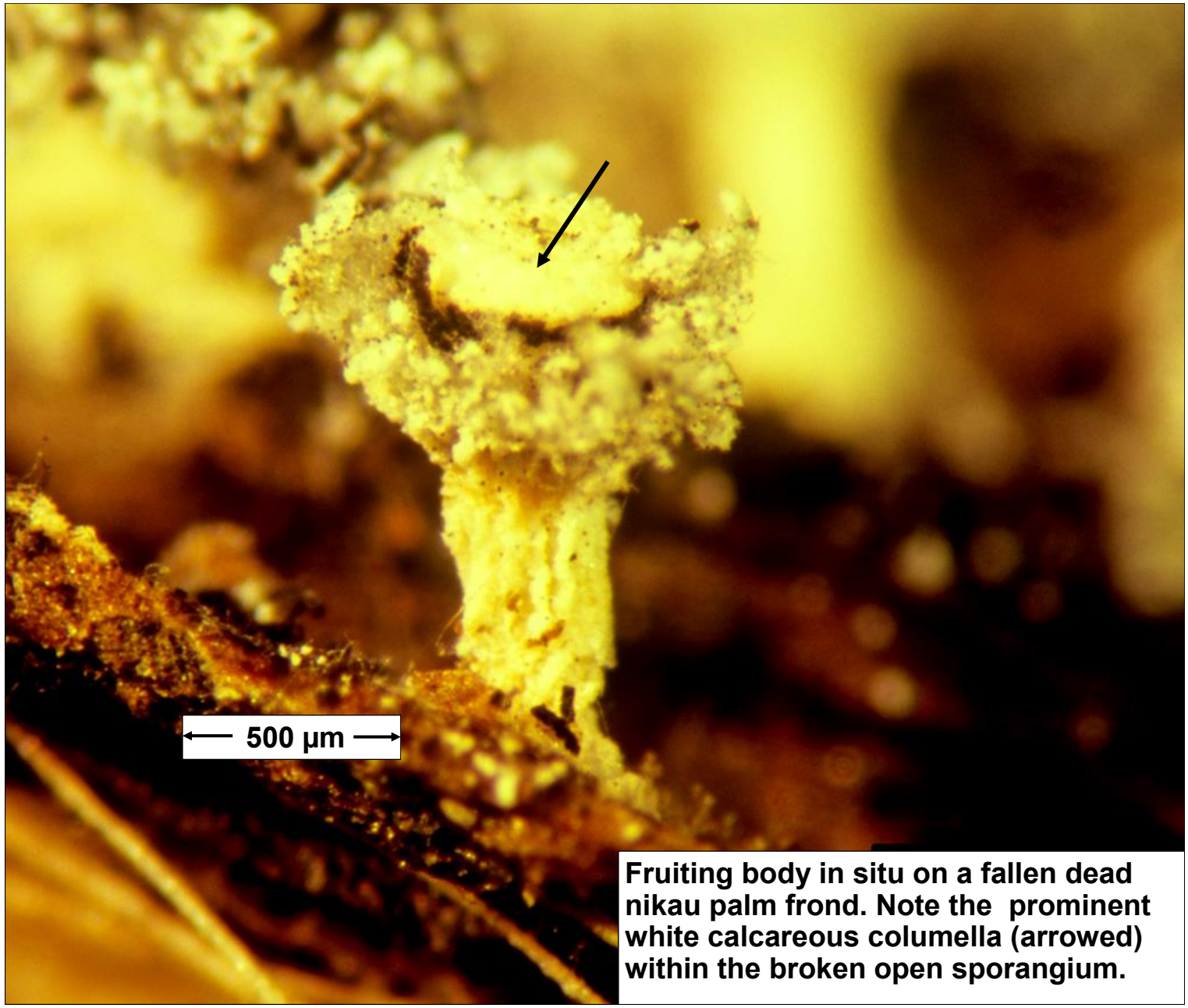
**Dan's brief description and comments:** Nicely matching Stephenson's description (pp. 163–165 in 'Myxomycetes of New Zealand'). An older collection but still worth the effort. Worth noting were **1)** the relatively short, stout, fluted, ochraceous to white stalks (with white stalks especially when stellate crystalline lime bodies were numerous there). **2)** the stalk extended inside the lower portion of the sporangium as a columella which a short distance inside became abruptly swollen and covered with numerous stellate crystalline lime bodies. **3)** thin, branching, nearly hyaline capillitial threads were numerous. **4)** spores were nearly black in mass, distinctly spinose and 10–12 µm in diameter. Spores often were clustered in large long rectangular masses (perhaps a feature of age, moisture, surface adhesion, other?). Under low magnifications one might think that these rectangular masses were small insect droppings. **5)** As Stephenson points out, the dead nikau palm frond is a frequent substrate for this species.



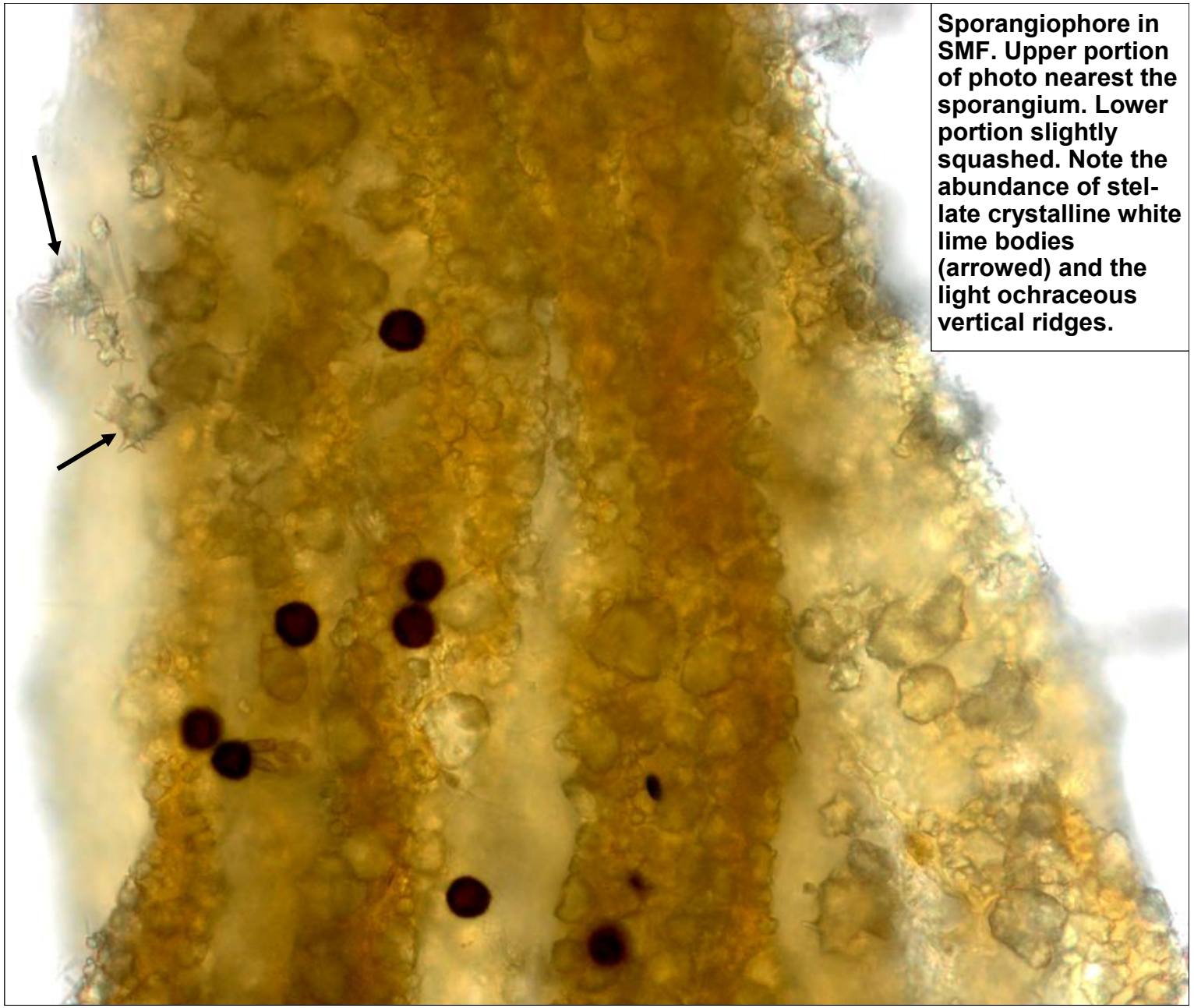

Fruiting bodies in situ on a fallen dead nikau palm frond. Note the abundance of white lime on sporangial peridia, sporangiophores and hypothalli.



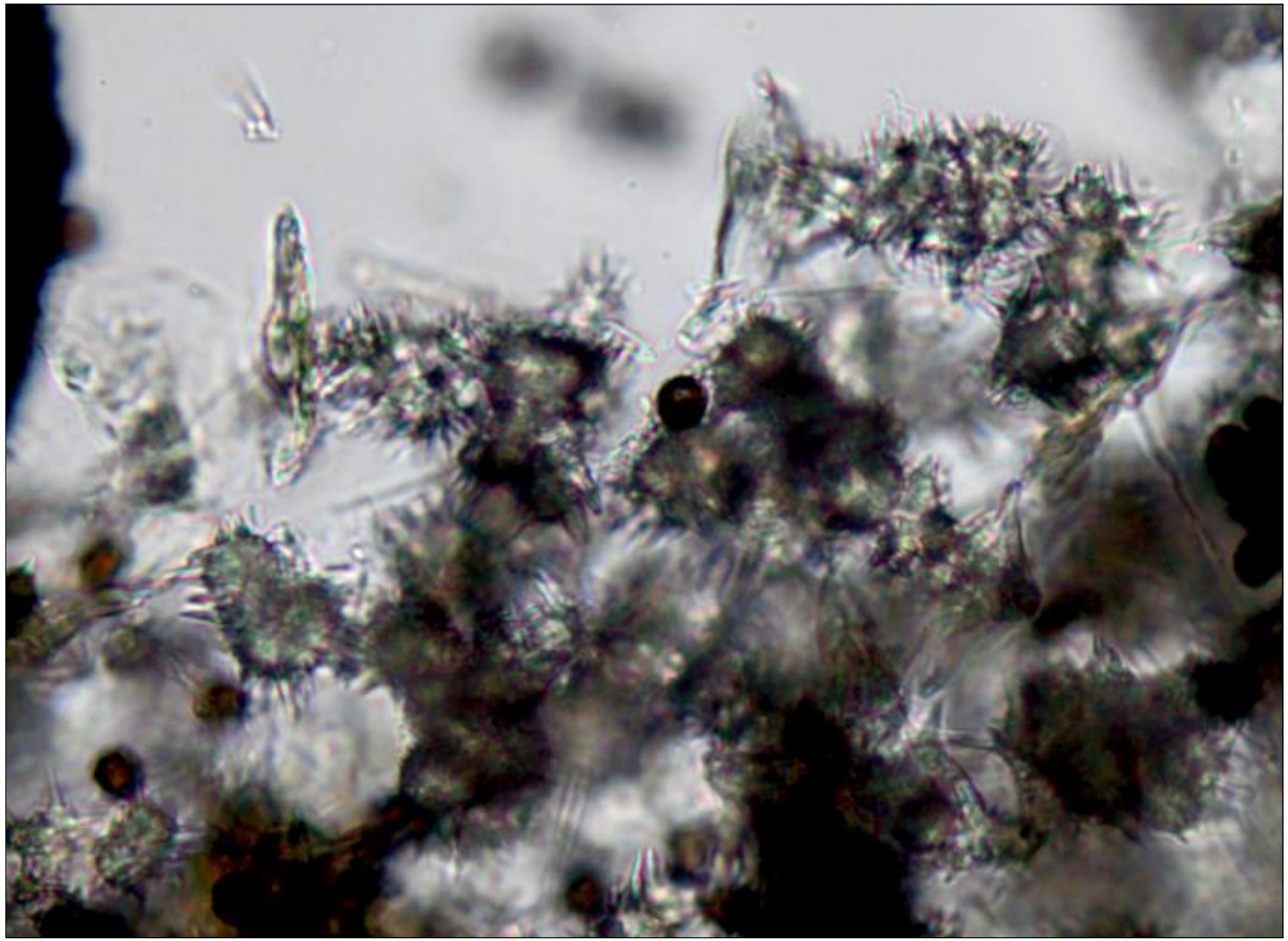

**Fruiting bodies in situ on a fallen dead nikau palm frond. Note the prominent white calcareous columella (arrowed) within the broken open sporangium.**

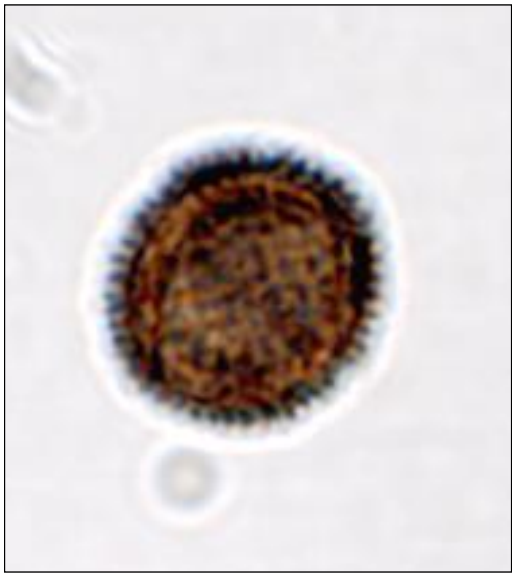



Fruiting body in situ on a fallen dead nikau palm frond. Note the prominent white calcareous columella (arrowed) within the broken open sporangium.



**Sporangiophore in SMF. Upper portion of photo nearest the sporangium. Lower portion slightly squashed. Note the abundance of stellate crystalline white lime bodies (arrowed) and the light ochraceous vertical ridges.**





**Left photo: White stellate crystalline lime bodies. Right photo: Spiny globose spore 12 µm in diameter. Both photos from SMF mounts.**