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Fungus of the Month - August 2007



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Chlorociboria aeruginascens

Chlorociboria aeruginascens stains wood it has colonised a distinctive blue-green colour. Species of *Chlorociboria* can be found in most places in the world and in the nineteenth century wood stained by the fungus was extensively used as inlay in furniture and popular woodcraft known as Tunbridge Ware. The stained wood can be seen virtually all year round on the forest floor in the southwest. It is more common in the moist karri forest than in drier jarrah forest. The small blue-green disc-shaped fruit bodies develop on the wood surface in the autumn. The caps may vary in size from 2-5 mm in diameter and are supported by a short stem the same colour as the cap. To find the stained wood or the fungus look for rotting jarrah or karri twigs about 20–60 mm diameter that are partially buried in well-developed leaf litter.

The Latin name refers to the colour and shape of the fruit body: *chlor-*: green, greenish or greenish-yellow, *cibor-*: drinking vessel or cup, *aerug-*: blue-green, green or deep green, *-ascens*: becoming or somewhat.