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Fungus of the Month - December 2010



Russula flocktoniae

Russula flocktoniae is a common species in jarrah forest and is found in most eucalypt forests and woodlands in southern Australia in early autumn to early winter. *Russula flocktoniae* fruits singly or in small groups. The caps are bright orange and generally 5–6 cm in diameter but may be as large as 8 cm (or up to 10 cm in eastern Australian forests). They are generally dome-shaped with a small central depression but become funnel-shaped or irregularly wavy as they expand. The cap surface has a dry somewhat velvety texture. The gills are white, widely spaced and may extend a short distance down the stem. The stem is white at the top then pale orange or brownish, short and somewhat stout but tapering at the base. Like all species of *Russula*, the mushrooms have a brittle texture and all parts—cap, gills and stem—‘snap’ easily.

The scientific name; what does it mean? *Russ-*: reddish (likely referring to the colour of the Northern hemisphere type specimen for *Russula*, *Russula emetica*, which has a red cap); *-ula*: pertaining to; *flockton-*: after well known botanical artist Margaret Flockton who worked at the National Herbarium at Sydney’s Botanic Gardens (and the NSW Forestry Department) from 1901–1927, *-iae*: named after or pertaining to.