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## Cryptogam of the Month- December 2008



### *Peltigera dolichorrhiza*

*Peltigera dolichorrhiza* is a lichen that is strange looking and has only been seen occasionally with fruiting bodies in WA. The lower surface of the thallus has a well defined network of veins with conspicuous rhizines (root like structures) which help to identify this genus when not in fruit. The upper surface is usually grey in colour and glossy. The fruiting bodies have incurved margins that help them to stand up and look like tiny fingers topped with a brown finger nail (apothecia). The thallus develops as a series of small rosettes on soil, bare or mossy and occasionally rock. Mainly occurring in eastern Australia but has been located recently in southern WA in open forest areas.

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