

# LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

# Fungus of the Month - November 2011



## *Coltriciella dependens*

*Coltriciella dependens* can be found throughout the jarrah forest and south-west woodlands, fruiting on the underside of burnt wood that is laying flat on the ground. It appears to be most common on jarrah wood. *C. dependens* is a wood decay fungus and develops characteristic orange brown hairy fruit bodies that hang from crevices and hollows on the under surface of the wood. When you turn a burnt piece of wood over you first see patches of dark brown honeycomb-like structures that appear to be growing on the surface. This is the fertile under surface of the fruit bodies; by looking at them side-on you can see that they are actually suspended from the surface of the wood by a number of short hairy stems. Several fruit bodies usually coalesce to form multi-stemmed structures (*see inset*). *C. dependens* fruit bodies look fragile but they have a tough fibrous texture. They generally develop about two years after fire and can be found from autumn through to early summer. *C. dependens* is also found on unburnt wood and has been reported from other areas of southern Australia and New Zealand.

The scientific name describes its appearance and hanging habit. *Col-*: dweller or inhabitant and *trich-*: hairs or fibres, *-iella*: diminutive, *dependere*: to hang down. Thus, the small hairy dweller that hangs down.