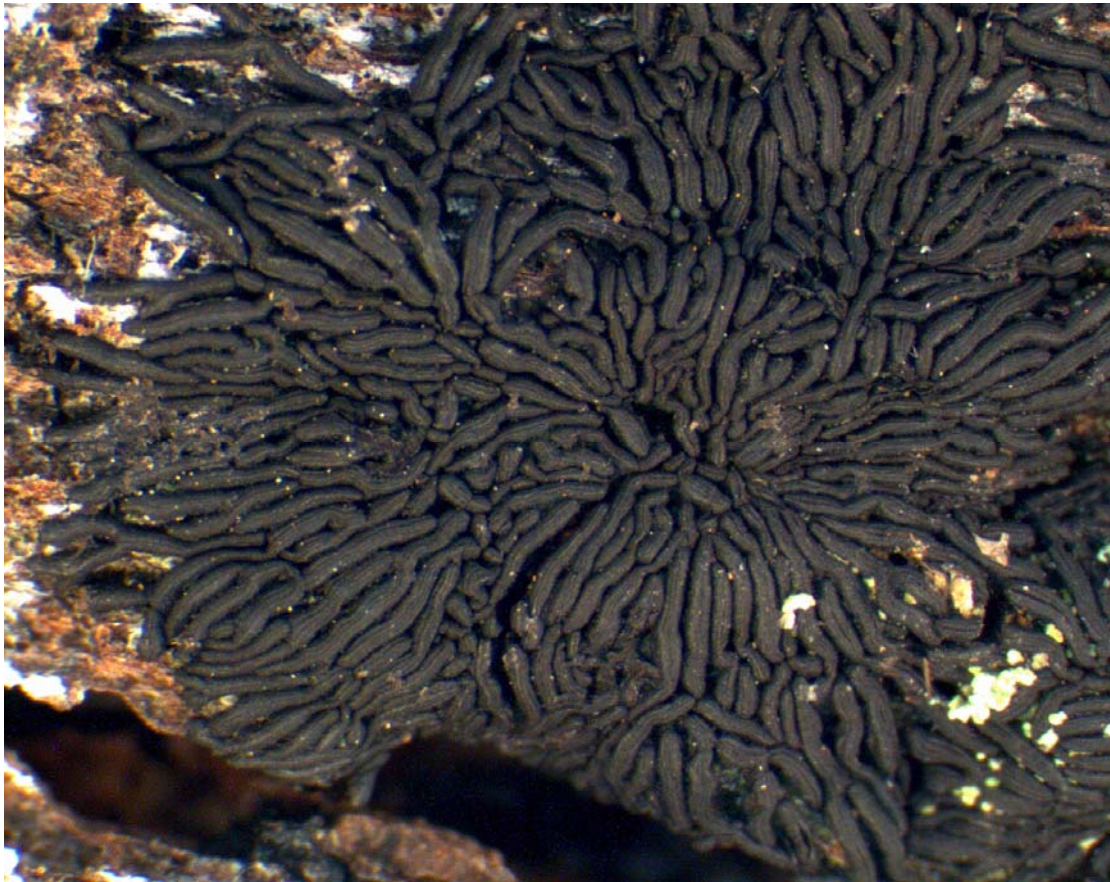


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Cryptogam of the Month – July 2012



Glonium circumserpens

Glonium circumserpens is a non lichenised fungus that occurs on well decayed wood and very occasionally upon stone surfaces. This species is usually noticed on the ground in semi shaded positions. The black worm like rays and the presence of a long surface slit that is usually closed has led to this species being misidentified as a lichen species. *Graphis* species look similar but have spore differences that can separate this species along with the absence of a lichenised crustose mat.

To date this species appears to be found in the wetter areas of southern Western Australia and Tasmania. Collections of this species have been made in jarrah / she oak forest areas and appears to be a primary coloniser on fallen logs and branches and may appear after a fire in some areas.

The identification of this group is not well understood and several closely related species may be collected as this species or placed into *Graphis* or *Opegrapha* collections.

R.J. Cranfield. Science Division. DEC Manjimup.