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Fungus of the Month - June/July 2012



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Lanzia lanaripes - black tacks

Lanzia lanaripes is a small disc-like fungus with a long stem. It is found throughout southern Australia in both wet eucalypt forests and temperate rainforest. It is often found fruiting from cracks or amongst moss on the surface of wet well-decayed wood. The moss covering serves to keep the wood moist between rain events. In the south-west of WA it fruits on large well-rotted logs and stumps in karri and jarrah forest.

The whole fruit body is shaped like a small flat-headed nail or tack, hence its common name black tacks. Disc-shaped caps are up to 10 mm in diameter, the upper surface is smooth, bluish black to black, flat or with a small central depression. The lower surface of the disc and the stem are lighter in colour, smooth or minutely downy. Stems vary in length but may be up to 20 mm long and taper towards the base which may be sparsely hairy or woolly.

The derivation of the genus *Lanzia* honours the 19th century Italian mycologist Dr Matteo Lanzi (1824-1908), the species epithet refers to the appearance of the stem; *lani*-: wool, *-pes*: foot.