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Fungus of the Month - November 2012



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Hydnum repandum - hedgehog fungus

Hydnum repandum is a mushroom with spines on the underside of the cap rather than gills. The spines and the fact that it occurs throughout the world, gave rise to the British common name of hedgehog fungus. In Western Australia, *Hydnum repandum* is found in karri forest, the wetter regions of jarrah forest and coastal woodlands.

Caps are up to 60 mm diameter often irregular in shape. They may be circular and broadly convex becoming flat with a wavy margin or irregular with a lobed and wavy margin. The surface is dull greyish orange and generally dry to moist. The spines are creamy-white, about 3 mm long and sometimes extend a short distance down the stem. Stems are up to 40 mm long, dull orange with a white powdery coating which is easily removed by rain or when handled.

Often this fungus fruits in groups in and under litter on the forest floor, and may be quite small and misshapen compared to the specimens photographed. There is also a similar chestnut or reddish brown species (*see inset*) found in southern Australia, including the southwest of Western Australia.

The scientific name refers to the appearance of the mushroom. *Hydn-* is the ancient term for an edible mushroom, *hydroid* is also the technical term for toothed, *repand-* is folded backwards or upturned.