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## Fungus of the Month - June 2013 Science Division

## Mycena mijoi

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*Mycena mijoi* is a very common fungus in forests, woodlands and coastal heath of the south west. It may fruit singly, but is more often found in groups scattered amongst leaf and twig litter on the floor of jarrah, karri, tingle and other eucalypt forests in late autumn and winter. It appears to be common throughout southern Australia.

Mycena mijoi develops small distinct mushroom-like fruit bodies. Caps are up to 12 mm broad, dome-shaped becoming convex with a distinct depression in the centre, moist, shiny, dark brown becoming light brown with age. The margin is generally grooved or striate. The gills are white, not crowded, and may extend a fraction down the stem at the point of attachment. Stems are generally 40-60 mm tall, cylindrical, creamy white or greyish turning brown near the base. The surface of the stem is coated with a thick clear glutinous substance which makes them very slippery. Stiff white hairs are usually present at the base of the stem and amongst the leaf litter where they grow (see above).

The shape of the cap with the distinct central depression and the very slippery, glutinous stem make *Mycena mijoi* easy to identify.

The scientific name honours the describing mycologist Cheryl Grgurinovic's father. *Mycena*-: ancient Greek term for mushroom, *mijoi*: after Mijo (Vic) Grgurinovic.