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Cortinarius fibrillosus

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Cortinarius fibrillosus is found throughout southern and eastern Australia. In south-western Australia it can be found in jarrah forest in autumn and early winter.

Cortinarius fibrillosus fruits singly or in small groups (as shown), on the ground amongst leaf and twig litter. Caps are up to 40 mm broad, convex to broadly convex, red brown to orange brown and covered with dense short white scales—giving it a woolly appearance. The margin is even, light creamy brown. The gills are orange brown, close together and of several lengths. In young unopened specimens the gills are protected by a white cob-web-like veil stretching between the stem and margin. Stems may be up to 60 mm tall, cylindrical, slender and covered with dense white fibrils. With age the dense scales on the cap may become sparse or be washed off by rain.



Cortinarius sp. (left) is a similar, but undescribed, species. However it is much smaller and more slender than *Cortinarius fibrillosus*. The scales on its cap also deteriorate quickly and older specimens are generally left with a smooth brown cap.

The scientific name refers to its characteristic features. *Cortin-*: prefix meaning curtain (refers to the veil covering the gills in young mushrooms), *-arius*: possessing or pertaining to, *fibril-*: fine fibre or hair, *-osus*: denotes a marked degree of development