

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

Fungus of the Month - April 2007



© Richard Robinson

Macrolepiota clelandii

It is easy to see why *Macrolepiota clelandii* is commonly called the slender or graceful parasol fungus. This tall elegant mushroom grows up to 20 cm tall with a cap as broad as 10 cm. The cap has distinctive brown scale-like patches on the surface and the slender stem has a prominent loose ring just below the cap and a bulbous base. Because it is tall, the perfectly symmetrical white gills do not get splashed with mud during heavy rain and are generally very clean (see inset). Note the gills are also free from the stem. Soon after early autumn rains, the graceful parasol is quite common in both jarrah and karri forest amongst leaf and twig litter. It can also be found in grassy park areas or in litter along the roadside close to the bush.

The Latin name – what it means: *macr* – large or long, *lepi* – scale, *clelandii* – after the distinguished South Australian naturalist and amateur mycologist Dr JB Cleland (1878-1921).

Richard Robinson, CALM Science Division, Manjimup