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Fungus of the Month - June 2007



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Podoserpula pusio

The first encounter with *Podoserpula pusio* is always an exciting find. Its unusual but attractive shape inspired the common name of Pagoda Fungus and in many ways it resembles a flower rather than a fungus. A number of tiered, soft chamois-like lobes arise from a central soft pink stem. The lobes at the base of the stem are generally larger and they tend to diminish in size towards to the top of the fruit body, which develops into a pagoda-like structure up to 10 cm tall. The underside of the lobes are a soft pink colour and have a ribbed pattern that extends a short way down the stem (*lower left*).

The Pagoda Fungus forms colonies on well-rotted wood or in litter at the base of stumps or alongside rotting logs in jarrah forest. It has also been found in pine plantations.