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Fungus of the Month - July 2007



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Lichenomphalia chromacea

Lichenomphalia chromacea has the common name of Yellow Navel. The whole fruit body is bright yellow and is generally about 15-25mm tall. The cap is grooved with a distinct central depression – features that gave rise to both the Latin and common names. The gills are lighter in colour and extend a short distance down the stem below the cap. *Lichenomphalia chromacea* is common in all forest and woodlands in the southwest and always grows in association with a green algal mat. *Lichenomphalia chromacea* belongs to a group of fungi referred to as Basidiolichens, which rely on symbiotic associations with algae. In this case the alga is most likely a species of *Coccomyxa*.

The Latin name – what it means: *lichen-* refers to its association with algae, *omphal-*: navel (umbilicus), *-ia*: resembling, *chrom-*: bright colour e.g., chrome-yellow, *-acea*: colour of or closely resembling.