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Fungus of the Month - September 2007



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Tremella mesenterica

Tremella mesenterica is commonly called the yellow jelly fungus. It is common in all forest types of the south-west and can be found throughout the winter months, usually growing on marri logs and dead *Banksia grandis* wood. The fungus belongs to a group commonly referred to as jelly fungi. It has a convoluted, lobed shape, is yellow to orange-yellow in colour and can be up to 15 cm in diameter. The surface is smooth and moist and as the common name suggests, the texture is that of firm jelly. A similar species, *Tremella aurantia* is virtually indistinguishable from *Tremella mesenterica* and a microscope is needed to tell them apart.

The Latin name refers to its texture or consistency and its resemblance to an intestine: *tremell-*: trembling, *mesenter-*: middle-intestine.