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## Fungus of the Month - October 2007



### *Scutellinia scutellata*

*Scutellinia scutellata*, the eyelash cup fungus is readily recognised by the pale to bright orange cups decorated with stiff eyelash-like hairs around the rim. The cups are flat or dish-like, generally about 5-10 mm in diameter. The eyelash cup fungus can be found throughout the winter and early spring. It prefers wet shaded sites and grows on bark, well-rotted wood, and sometimes on wet soil that has a high organic component. The cups do not have a stalk, but have a broad firm attachment to the surface on which they grow. The eyelash cup fungus is widespread throughout forests and woodlands in the southwest. There are a number of species of *Scutellinia* in Australia and possibly one other in WA but they are difficult to recognise and only distinguished by microscopic characters.

The Latin name refers to its shape: *scutel*- dish or *scut*- shield.