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Fungus of the Month - September 2008



Panus fasciatus - hairy panus

The densely hairy cap and chestnut bristles on the stem make the hairy panus (*Panus fasciatus*) easy to identify. The caps are generally 20 to 50 mm in diameter. In young specimens the margin of the cap is rolled under and the gills, which extend a short way down the stem, are purple. As they mature the caps expand to become funnel shaped and the gills turn brown. The hairy panus is more common in drier woodland environments, fruiting on wood in the late winter and early spring. In warm weather the mushrooms dry out but can rehydrate following rain

The meaning of the Latin name is unclear as there are several possible derivations: *panus*: tumor, or more likely from *pannosus* (adj.): felted or with the appearance or texture of felt, *fasciatus* (adj.): marked with broad stripes of colour - may refer to the pattern of the gills.