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Fungus of the Month - February 2009



Aleuria rhenana -stalked orange peel fungus

The stalked orange peel fungus, *Aleuria rhenana* is a cup fungus. It is common in the autumn in most forest type where it fruits on soil on either open ground or amongst leaf and twig litter. It is easily recognised by its bright orange cup-shaped fruit body that may become flattened and somewhat lobed as they develop and mature. Cups can be up to 25 mm in diameter, are lighter in colour on the underside with a whitish stem up to 20 mm long. They often grow together in clusters of 5 or more.

Clouds of white spores are often discharged from the cups, and they can be encouraged to do so by leaning over them and giving a sudden blow of air into their cups.

The Latin name does not appear to be associated with its appearance: *aleur-*: wheat or flour, *rhen-*: Rhine.