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Fungus of the Month - April 2009



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Leucopaxillus lilacinus

Leucopaxillus lilacinus fruits in both jarrah and karri forest in the early autumn. The large lilac coloured caps can expand to be 15 cm in diameter. The margin of the cap rolls under and the gills are white to cream in colour, often forked or interconnected. The stem is solid, often barrel shaped, and tapers to a point at the base. Despite its size and conspicuous colour *Leucopaxillus lilacinus* is often overlooked because it is well camouflaged and often fruits underneath leaf and twig litter. It generally fruits in a close group or clump of 3-4 mushrooms, but may be solitary. The surface of the cap is dry, and the texture of the flesh in both the cap and stem is solid.

Leucopaxillus lilacinus is found in eucalypt forests and plantations throughout southern Australia, including Tasmania and Kangaroo Island.

The Latin name describes the shape and colour of the fruit body: *Leuc-*: white, light, *paxill-*: small stake, stick or peg, *lilac*: refers to the colour, *-inus*: resembling.