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Fungus of the Month - May 2009



Panellus ligulatus

Panellus ligulatus is a small but distinct fan-shaped fungus. The caps are 1-2 cm in diameter, light orange in colour with a dry surface that is often coated with a sparse layer of delicate woolly fibres which gives them a frosty appearance. This coating is generally washed away by rain. Stems are laterally attached and up to 2 cm long. The surface of the stem also has a covering of delicate woolly fibres that becomes denser towards the base, causing the colour to gradually change from light orange near the apex to white at the base.

Panellus ligulatus fruits in autumn and early winter in the wetter karri and jarrah forests of the southern region of the south west. It is most commonly found on large, moss covered logs in shady environments.

The Latin name describes the tongue-like appearance of the fruit body: *pann-*: rag, *-ellus*: diminutive, small, *ligul-*: little tongue, *-atus*: resembling, similar.