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Fungus of the Month - March 2010



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Ramaria ochraceosalmonicolor

Ramaria ochraceosalmonicolor does not have a common name, but could be referred to as the salmon coral fungus. However, it does vary considerably in colour from various shades of yellow through to orange. The salmon coral fungus is common in eucalypt forests and woodlands throughout southern Australia, appearing amongst the litter from early to late autumn. It is conspicuous, not only by its colour and coral-like shape, but also by its size. Several fruit bodies generally develop together and can form clusters up to 20 cm in diameter and 15 cm tall. The colour tends to be more intense in young specimens. The branching pattern is generally irregular, but the tips of branches tend to be rounded and the bases of the stems are nearly always white.

There are many species that belong to the group commonly referred to as coral fungi. Some species form simple or branched club-like structures (see *Clavaria miniata* – June 2009), the salmon coral fungus has a dense but open coral-like structure, and other species may be more compact and cauliflower-like.

The Latin/Greek scientific name refers to its shape and colour; *ram-*: branch, *-aria*: pertaining to or possessing, *ochreac-*: ochraceous, *salmon-*: salmon coloured.

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