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Fungus of the Month - August 2010



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Gymnopilus allantopus

Gymnopilus allantopus is a very common species in jarrah forest; fruiting on logs and small diameter woody debris in the late autumn. It is especially common on fallen *Banksia grandis* trees. The caps are generally 1.5–4.5 cm diameter, dome-shaped at first and covered with white silky fibrils; they then expand to become orange-brown with a yellowish margin. The distinctive lemon-yellow gills are initially covered by a web-like protective veil which breaks away as the cap expands. When old the gills become spotted with rusty stains. The stem has a dry white silky covering when fresh but is brown underneath and often swollen near the base.

The fruit bodies generally emerge from the decaying wood through cracks in the bark or along the edge of where bark patches have broken off. If the loose bark is pulled away you often see white root-like or thin web-like structures formed by the mycelium of the fungus. There are often tiny undeveloped fruit bodies attached to the ends of these structures (*inset above*).

The Latin/Greek scientific name refers to the appearance of the cap and shape of the stem; *gym-*: naked, *pile-*: cap, but can also mean hair, *allanto-*: sausage shaped, *pus-*: foot or base.