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# Fungus of the Month - October 2010



## *Russula persanguinea*

*Russula persanguinea* is an uncommon species found in the wetter areas of eucalypt forests in the south west, including karri, jarrah and tingle forest. It usually fruits at the base of live trees, but can also be found on the ground or occasionally on well rotted, moss covered logs and stumps. The cherry red caps are viscid or slippery when wet. They can expand to about 7 cm diameter and are generally broad and flat with a central depression. The gills are pure white and crowded. The stem is also pure white, up to 7 cm tall (generally thickening towards the base) and will ‘snap’ quite easily when bent.

At first glance *Russula persanguinea* is very similar to *Russula clelandii* (FoM Sept. 2010) but is readily distinguished by its consistently bright red cap, and pure white gills and stem. It is also the only *Russula* that can be found fruiting on dead wood.

The Latin/Greek scientific name describes the distinctive bright red colour of the cap; *russ-*: reddish (likely referring to the colour of the Northern hemisphere type specimen for *Russula*, *Russula emetrica*, which has a red cap very similar to *Russula persanguinea*); *-per-*: intensely or very, *sanguine-*: bloody or blood-red.