

Cryptogam of the Month – April 2008



Ramboldia stuartii

Ramboldia stuartii is a small crustose lichen commonly found on decaying weathered wood and occasionally mature non flaking bark. This species prefers an elevated substrate but can occasionally be found on fallen material on the ground. Usually all that is seen are the masses of plane, disc-like, black fruiting bodies (apothecia). The pale thallus tends to be immersed in the substrate and is only obvious when wet. Spores of this species develop in a bag-shaped ascus located in the fruiting body and are elliptic in shape and may appear to be septate, which in fact is a transverse plasma ridge and not part of the cell wall.

A common species found in southern Australia and New Zealand growing in open dry sclerophyll forests and woodlands.

In Australia there are thirteen species of *Ramboldia* of which ten are endemic. Seven species occur in WA, with one known endemic.

Ramboldia named after the German lichenologist Gerhard Rambold

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