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Cryptogam of the month-August 2008



Pleurophascum occidentale

Pleurophascum occidentale is a moss species recently discovered, that is a natural curiosity in that it produces unusual yellow orange ball like fruit structures.

Pleurophascum is a genus of three species that occur in the southern hemisphere, WA, Tasmania and New Zealand.

The identification of the WA species *P. occidentalis* although partly resolved may in the future require the placement into another genera.

In Western Australia this moss has a restricted distribution and is considered an endangered species.

When found in the leafy stage the identification of this species is difficult along with a specific habitat requirement may account for its limited known locations. Usually located in sheltered moist positions on areas of decaying granite particles associated with organic litter.

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