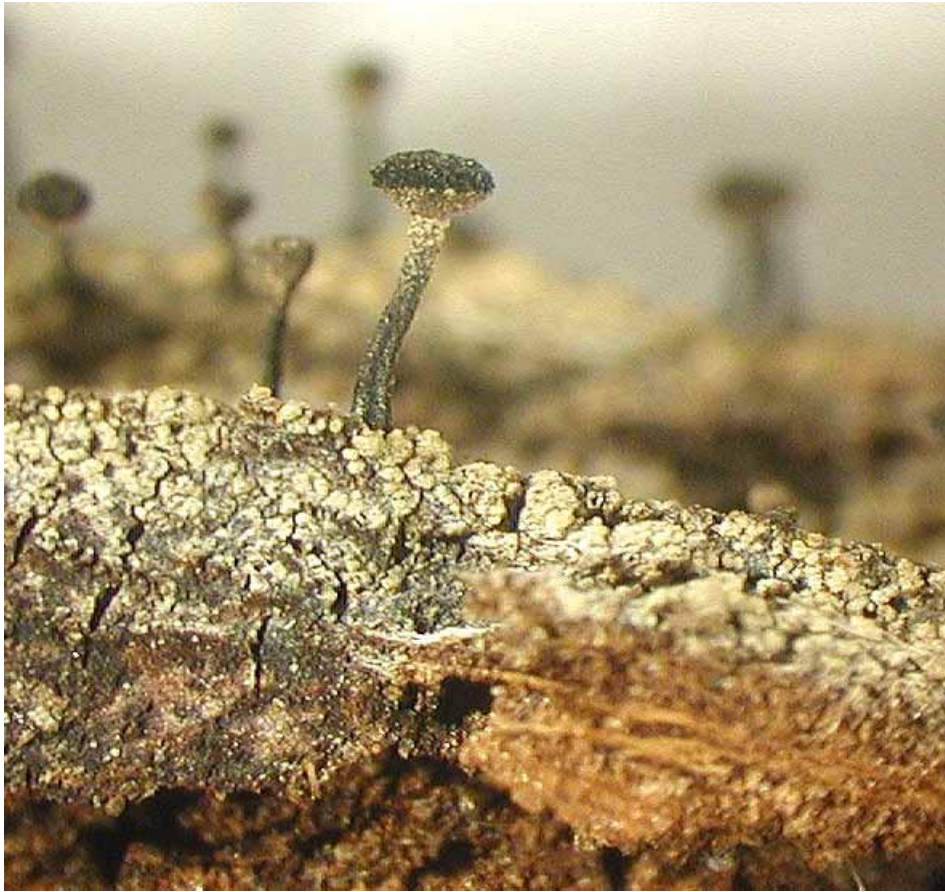


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Cryptogam of the Month-February 2009



Chaenotheca chrysocephala

Chaenotheca chrysocephala is a small lichen species from the commonly named whisker group. The thallus has an intense yellow colour when moist. The black stalked apothecia, is topped by a broad yellowish capitulum (head) in which the spores develop. The shining stalk which is often covered with a intense yellow granular powder. Spores are small spherical to elliptic with a coarse irregular, rough surface ornamentation.



Spores

This species grows mainly on decaying bark and occasionally well decayed wood in temperate cool shaded humid forests.

Easily recognised by the presence of its bright yellow powdery thallus, this species is not widespread in southern Western Australia. Found frequently in eastern Australia, New Zealand and several locations in the Northern Hemisphere.

R.J. Cranfield. Science Division. DEC Manjimup