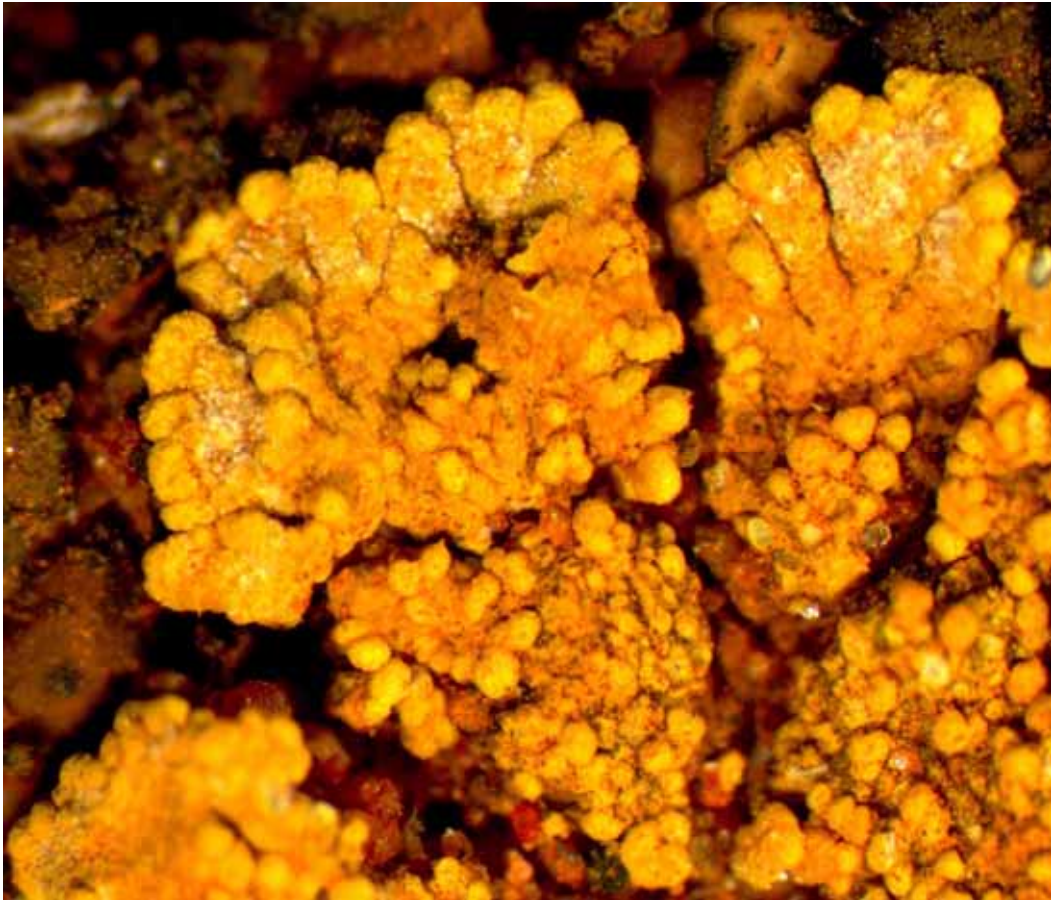


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Cryptogam of the Month-November 2009



Fulgensia isidiosa

This newly described small foliose soil lichen is from semi saline areas of Western Australia. The intense yellow colour of the thallus makes small rosette species stand out especially against the red soil. Closer examination shows finger-like protusions on the upper surface of the thallus (isidia) hence the species name. Another character is the crystalline or sugar-like granules (salt) on the tips of the thallus giving this species a soft appearance in a harsh environment.

Future collections of this species will reveal the true range of this newly described species.

Other species of *Fulgensia* have similar colouring and do occur in similar habitats but can be separated from this new species by the absence of the finger-like isidia on the upper surface of the thallus.

R.J. Cranfield. Science Division. DEC Manjimup