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Cryptogam of the Month-April 2011



Diploschistes ocellatus

Diploschistes ocellatus a crustose lichen, that occurs on calcareous clay soils and occasionally located on rock surfaces. Usually located in drier areas associated with mallee species where it forms patches of a thick mat-like crust. The thalline crust can appear to lay flat on the soil surface or buckle and lift off the soil as it ages. The dull to glossy grey-white colour of the thallus and the lumpy (bullate) appearance of this species makes recognition easier when other *Diploschistes* species are present. The presence of numerous large apothecoid fruiting discs compared to the other known species in this genus has made identification easier. The reaction to Potassium hydroxide (K test) shows as a positive yellow-red colour.

Occurs in most Australian states but also can be located in several other countries.

R.J. Cranfield. Science Division, DEC Manjimup.