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Fungus of the Month - August/September 2011



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Resupinatus cinerascens

Resupinatus cinerascens is a common fungus in jarrah forest and woodlands in mid- to late-autumn. It fruits on dead wood and is most commonly found on *Banksia grandis* (bull banksia) wood that has begun to decompose and on the loose bark of small dead jarrah branches. The caps are 10-20 mm in diameter, dark grey in colour grading to light grey around the margin which has a fine woolly texture. The inner flesh of the cap has a grey gelatinous texture. The fungus does not have a stem and caps are attached directly to the underside of the dead wood (see inset above). The gills are very distinct and have a radial pattern that resembles the spokes of a wheel. They vary in length and are often finely branched or buttressed at their inner ends.

When present, *Resupinatus cinerascens* generally fruits in large numbers; often all the way from the base of a dead branch to the fine twigs on the end. It favours fallen branches that are suspended above the ground, and because it usually fruits on the underside you may need to turn them over to find it.

The scientific name refers to the form and colour of the fruit body. *Resupinate*-: is the technical term referring to the habit of lying flat on the substrate; or not possessing a stalk, *-us*: the common masculine gender ending, *cinere*-: ash-coloured or smokey, *-ascens*: becoming, or somewhat.