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Fungus of the Month - August 2012



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Mycena sp. 'rosy pink mycena'

This small unnamed rosy pink *Mycena* is found in the southern regions of the jarrah forest in late autumn to early winter. It is a distinct and beautifully delicate mushroom, generally found growing singly or in small groups of 2-5 amongst well-rotted leaf litter. The whole mushroom is very small. Caps are 3-7 mm diameter, convex or dome-shaped, dark salmon-pink at first then becoming lighter with age. The surface is smooth and the margin grooved. The gills are pale pinkish white, sometimes with tiny red drops of liquid on the edge near the stem. Stems are up to 25 mm long and 1 mm wide, smooth, pale pink and almost translucent.

The rosy pink *Mycena* is not to be mistaken for *Mycena viscidocruenta* which is also very small but is deep red in colour and very glutinous. It is, however, similar to *Mycena wubabulna* from Queensland but is slightly larger and differs in microscopic characters. These two delicate pink-coloured *Mycenas* are similar to several species from other regions of the world including *Mycena adonis* and *Mycena monticola*.

The scientific name *Mycena* is the ancient Latin or Greek term for mushroom. Mycenae was also a major city of the Mycenaean civilization during the late Bronze Age.

Richard Robinson, DEC Science Division, Manjimup

