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Fungus of the Month - October 2012



Hypholoma australe

Hypholoma australe is a common fungus found throughout eucalypt forests in Western Australia and Tasmania. It generally fruits in large clusters, of up to 50 fruit bodies, at the base of dead trees or understory shrubs, stumps and logs. In Western Australia, *Hypholoma australe* is common in both jarrah and karri forest and also occurs in woodlands and coastal heaths.

Caps are 15-25 mm diameter, dome-shaped becoming broadly convex, burnt orange in the centre then grading to light yellow around the margin. The surface of fresh specimens is covered with a sparse covering of fine white scales, especially noticeable around the margin. Gills are crowded, lemon yellow changing to grey with age. Stems are up to 90 mm long, with a covering of white scales which tend to be larger on the lower half of the stem.

The scales on the cap are worn off with age but on the stem they tend to persist forming a banded pattern. Up to 10 or more fruit bodies may arise from the same point on the substrate, making it appear as if the bases of the stems are fused together. This habit is referred to as being caespitose.

The scientific name refers to the scales on the cap margin and it being an endemic Australian species. *Hyph-*: fringed with tissue, *loma-*: margin, *austral* : southern.