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Cotylidia undulata

by Richard Robinson, Science and Conservation Division, Manjimup richard.robinson@dpaw.wa.gov.au



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Cotylidia undulata is a small but distinctive fungus. In southwestern Australia it can be found in most eucalypt forests in autumn and early winter, on recently burnt sites amongst the fire moss, *Funaria hygrometrica*.

Cotylidia undulata fruits singly or in small groups. Its small funnel-shaped caps are up to 7mm across and about 5mm deep, with a ragged and often split margin. The inside surface is light creamy brown with darker concentric bands and covered with fine silk-like fibres. The outer surface is smooth with shallow folds or ridges, while the stems are 8–10mm long, slender, slightly darker in colour than the caps and have a smooth surface.

This species is also found in the northern hemisphere, but is regarded as being very rare in Europe, and on the critically endangered list for a number of countries. In Western Australia, however, it is common throughout recently burnt areas of both karri and jarrah forest and its presence most likely reflects the difference in both the natural occurrence and social acceptance of fire in the Australian landscape. It probably occurs throughout southern and southeastern Australia, but outside Western Australia has also only been recorded in Tasmania and Victoria.

The scientific name refers to its characteristic features, and describes it perfectly. *Cotyl-*: cup or cup-shaped, *-idia*: diminutive (little), *undul-*: wave, *-ata*: possessing or furnished with.