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## *Lichenomphalia chromaceae* — yellow navel

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*Lichenomphalia chromaceae*, or yellow navel, is common in all forests, woodlands and coastal heaths throughout southern and eastern Australia. In the southwest it can be found fruiting in small to large groups in mid- to late-autumn, always in association with a green algal mat, generally on wetter sandy soils, or on well-decayed wood.

The whole fruit body is bright yellow and usually 15-25mm tall. Caps are 5-15mm diameter, convex, grooved with a distinct central depression—features that gave rise to both the Latin and common names. The cap margin has a scalloped edge. Gills are lighter in colour, thick, widely spaced with the longer ones extending a short distance down the stem. Stems are about 25mm tall, slender, lighter towards the base, smooth with a tough texture.

*Lichenomphalia chromacea* belongs to a group of fungi referred to as Basidiolichens, which rely on symbiotic associations with algae. In this case the alga is most likely a species of *Coccomyxa*. The algal mats are generally quite conspicuous, forming a dark greenish sheet on the surface of soil or decaying wood.

The scientific name describes its habit and physical features. *Lichen-* refers to its association with algae, *omphal-*: navel (umbilicus), *-ia*: resembling, *chrom-*: bright colour e.g., chrome-yellow, *-acea*: colour of or closely resembling.