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Aleuria rhenana — stalked orange peel

Richard Robinson, Science Division, Manjimup, richard.robinson@dec.wa.gov.au



Aleuria rhenana, or stalked orange peel fungus, belongs to a group known as cup fungi. It's very distinct and common in autumn in most forest, woodland and coastal heath vegetation types in southern and eastern Australia. It fruits on soil, on either open ground or amongst leaf and twig litter, and easily recognised by its bright orange cup-shaped fruit bodies which often grow together in clusters of five or more.

Cups are generally up to 2.5cm diameter and may become flattened and somewhat lobed as they develop and mature. They are lighter in colour on the underside which is also textured with small bumps. Cups are supported by a whitish stem up to 2cm long.

Clouds of white spores are often discharged from the cups, and they can be encouraged to do so by leaning over them and blowing a small sudden, puff of air into the cups.

The scientific name does not appear to relate to either its appearance or habit. *Aleur-*: wheat or flour, *rhen-*: Rhine.