# Fungi of the Perth Region and Beyond

A Self-Managed Field Book



Neale L. Bougher

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Western Australian Naturalists' Club (Inc.)
Perth

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#### Introduction

#### Fungi of the Perth Region and Beyond A self-managed Field Book

One of the best ways initially to learn about fungi is to recognise and identify some individual species of fungi. A useful way to do this is to carry a field book with photographs of fungi. Because fungi species often appear slightly different in different regions such a guide is especially useful if the photographs are of examples of fungi species as they appear in a local habitat.

This field book is provided to meet these needs for fungi of the Perth Region, Western Australia. The book is titled "... and Beyond" because many of the fungi presented can be found beyond the Perth region throughout south west Australia and over much of southern Australia. Some are even more widespread.

The book is presented as an expanding 'work in progress'. Photographs and information about different fungi have been, and will continue to be, added to subsequent editions of the field book. At least one photograph of each fungus is provided. Each fungus occupies one page so that the order in which they are arranged can reflect your preference. The book is arranged such as to enable additions, e.g. pagination and arrangement of fungi into broad groups. This has the advantage of enabling new pages of each broad group simply to be appended into previous editions, but has the disadvantage of not presenting fungi species together in consecutive pages within their genera. Users of this book may choose to arrange printed pages into genera, or to maintain the pages in numerical order and rely upon the index to find all fungi of any particular genus.

There are several sections at the back of this book which provide additional help to users. These include an "Additions, errors, omissions and corrections" section which outlines the changes in subsequent editions of the book. The information in this section enables users to select the particular pages they may need to print out in order to append to, or substitute into, their copy of a previous edition. A "Spore colour guide" is provided to group the fungi according to the colour of their spore print. The text associated with this guide explains about how to make a spore print. A "Checklist" is provided to enable users to summarize their sightings of each of the fungi presented in this book.

Information about each fungus is given in the following format:

#### **PHOTOGRAPH**

**COMMON NAME:** Golden Wood Fungus (if a Fungimap target species)

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** Gymnopilus allantopus

**HABITAT:** On dead wood. **LIFE MODE:** Decomposer.

#### CHARACTERISTICS AND DISTINCTIVE FEATURES.

• **SIZE:** cap 10-40 mm:

• **SPORE PRINT COLOUR:** bright ochre brown:

#### Notes

(Blank section for <u>adding your own</u> notes and diagrams for each fungus)

Fungimap target species are a group of easily identifiable fungi selected by the Fungimap project. Fungimap aims to create distribution maps of these fungi in Australia. The Fungimap project encourages people to send them their records and photographs of target fungi. Please see the Fungimap website for further details.

The current (2017) revision of the field guide does not add more species onto the 2009 field guide. However it does update many species names in light of recent taxonomic studies and where previous errors were evident. Also the revision flags fungi that have become *Fungimap* target species since the 2009 edition. A list of updated species names and Fungimap targets is provided at the back of this guide.

#### When to see fungi in the Perth Region

Fungi may fruit at any time of the year in temperate regions such as around Perth, but in this region there can be at least two distinct, but highly variable fruiting periods:

**February to April:** There are often one or more brief flushes of fungi in Perth's parks, lawns and gardens during the early months of the year. Warm, humid days coinciding with bursts of rain or humidity will often entice the fruiting bodies of some fungi to appear. Many respond rapidly, fruit briefly and disappear, such as the Conehead Fungus on lawns (see page J-22), and some Ink Caps that wither by early morning such as the Hairy Ink Cap on woodchips (p. J-8). The early responding fungi also include some fungi that favour disturbed areas such as the quite long-lasting dog poo

fungus *Pisolithus* (p. L-3), and also some fungi common to tropical or subtropical regions such as the Green-gilled Mushroom (p. J-41).

May to July: In Perth's natural bushlands most fungal fruiting bodies do not appear until after the onset of substantial autumn rains. Mid June to mid July is usually the peak time to search for bushland fungi in the greater Perth region, but any time from mid-May through to late July is usually a fruitful period. Several early-season species of large boletes such as the Variable Gyroporus (p. K-3), and Amanitas such as the Small Warty Tuart Amanita (p. J-62) often herald the start of the local bushland fungi season, usually some time in May. Other fungi species appear in succession for various lengths of time over the duration of "the fungi season".

Some people swear by their favourite locations around the Perth region as dependable treasure-troves of fungi. But generally fungi are not reliable beasts. Most fungi do not fruit at precisely the same location year after year—mostly they fruit only once or perhaps intermittently at the same spot. However, a few fungi have proven to be quite predictable, such as the giant Cleland's Gilled Bolete (p. K-5) which has been conspicuous under gum trees alongside May Drive in Perth's Kings Park during the month of May every year since at least the early 1970's.

#### **Fungi Biodiversity and Conservation**

There are probably at least 10 times more species of fungi than plants in the world. For Western Australia that equates to about 140,000 fungi and 14,000 plant species. No one really knows how many fungi we have. Many are yet to be discovered and named. Most fungi are microscopic but probably at least several thousand species are macrofungi of the types in this book. Most bushlands in Perth region have not been surveyed for fungi, or poorly surveyed, including Perth's renowned Kings Park. However it is likely that many thousands of fungi species occur in the region, including many hundreds of macrofungi. Over 350 species of macrofungi have been recorded so far in recent surveys at Bold Park, one of Perth's major inner urban bushlands (437 hectares).

The Perth region is blessed with numerous bushlands that harbour colourful displays of local Flora, Fauna, and Fungi. Without fungi many plants and animals in the bushlands would struggle to thrive. Fungal networks recycle and distribute precious nutrients throughout bushlands. Many native plants such as eucalypts, wattles, and orchids have symbiotic mycorrhizal partnerships with fungi. The fungi act like an extra root

system by extracting nutrients from soil and supplying nutrients to the plants. Fungi also provide food and/or habitat for many animals ranging from bandicoots and woylies to beetles and flies. Flora, Fauna and Fungi and the interdependencies between them need to be understood and managed in order to nurture bushlands in the Perth region and beyond.

Fungi are protected biodiversity in Western Australia. You need a licence to collect fungi on public land in this State. A licence is required from the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and/or the managing agency of particular bushlands, e.g. the Botanic Gardens and Park Authority for Kings Park and Bold Park. Some fungi may be rare or restricted, and some are listed on WA's Flora Conservation Codes, e.g. the Pink-gilled Amanita (p. J-32).

Only collect fungi if you have a real purpose and a licence. Otherwise look, perhaps photograph, and leave.

#### **Fungi Names**

The scientific names of fungi sometimes reflect a distinguishing feature of the fungus, e.g. Hydnangium carneum (p. I-2) is pink (carneus -Latin, flesh-coloured). Unfortunately, the scientific names of many fungi can be less informative and difficult to pronounce or remember. In recent years the scientific names of many fungi have been changing rapidly, particularly due to molecular revelations. Many fungi or groups of fungi previously assigned to a particular genus because of their similar appearance are being dispersed and assigned new names, e.g. In 2001 most of the Ink Caps were split up from the old familiar genus Coprinus into Coprinellus, Coprinopsis and Parasola. In this book names current at the time are given for the fungi, e.g. Red Woodchips Fungus (p. J-29) formerly widely known as Stropharia aurantiaca is presented as Leratiomyces ceres. Names will continue to be updated in subsequent editions when necessary. The common or informal names given for many fungi in this book are either widely adopted, or names coined by locals in the Perth region, e.g. Calocera guepinioides (p. Q-1) locally has been likened to the ginger stubble of a Scotsman's Beard. Many fungi have so far defied a meaningful common name. Suggestions are welcome.

A small number of fungi without a species name are included in this book. These are included because of their distinctive nature. Far more could have been included but they are restricted in number in preference for including identified fungi in the book. In such cases an informal descriptor is used for a distinguishing feature of the fungus, e.g. *Amanita* sp. "sour yellow stainer" (p. J-61). Further studies are required to determine if such fungi match named species or are new species to Science. Also requiring further studies are a number of species in this book designated "aff." e.g. *Gyroporus aff. cyanescens* (p. K-3), or as "cf." e.g. *Heterotextus cf. peziziformis* (p. Q-4). The local fungus is considered to be very similar to, or affiliated with, a known species but may not be identical.

To facilitate future studies, the specimens photographed for each fungus in this book are permanently lodged at the Western Australian Herbarium (PERTH).

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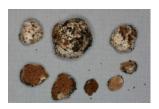
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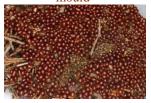
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# **Species Descriptions**

A description of each species follows.

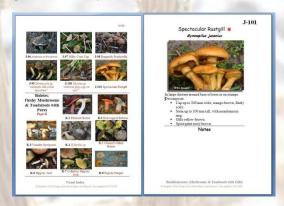
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