



Leucopaxillus lilacinus — purple turnover

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



© Richard Robinson

Leucopaxillus lilacinus, or purple turnover, is found in eucalypt forests and plantations throughout southern Australia, including Tasmania and Kangaroo Island. In the southwest it fruits in both jarrah and karri forest in early autumn.

Large lilac coloured caps can expand to be 15cm or more in diameter. They have a dry surface, are convex in shape and have a margin that rolls under. Gills are crowded, white to cream in colour and often forked or interconnected. Stems are pale lilac, often barrel-shaped, and taper to a point at the base. The whole mushroom is robust, with firm white flesh in both the cap and stem.

Despite its size and conspicuous colour *Leucopaxillus lilacinus* is often overlooked because it's well camouflaged and often fruits underneath leaf and twig litter. It generally fruits in clusters of 3–4 mushrooms, but may be solitary.

The scientific name describes the shape and colour of the fruit body. *Leuc-*: white, light, *paxill-*: small stake, stick or peg, *lilac*: refers to the colour, *-inus*: resembling.