



Chlorociboria aeruginascens — green stain fungus

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Chlorociboria aeruginascens stains wood it has colonised a distinctive blue-green colour. In the southwest, the stained wood can be seen on the forest floor virtually all year round. It's more common in the karri forest and the wetter regions of jarrah forest than in drier forest areas. The small blue-green disc-shaped fruit bodies generally develop on the wood surface in autumn, but can also appear during wet spring periods.

Caps vary in size from 2-5mm in diameter, are generally flat or shallow dish-like in shape. Caps are supported by a short stem the same colour as the cap. To find the stained wood or the fungus, look for rotting jarrah or karri twigs about 2–6cm diameter that are partially buried in well-developed leaf litter. If the bark is still attached, peel it back to reveal the stained wood underneath.

Species of *Chlorociboria* can be found in most places in the world. In nineteenth century Britain, wood stained by the fungus was extensively used as inlay in furniture and popular woodcraft known as Tunbridge Ware.

The Scientific name refers to the colour and shape of the fruit body: *chlor*:- green, greenish or greenish-yellow, *cibor*:- drinking vessel or cup, *-ium*: resembling, characteristic of, *aerug*:- blue-green, green or deep green, *-ascens*: becoming or somewhat.