



Trichoglossum hirsutum

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Species of *Trichoglossum* and *Geoglossum* are commonly called black earth tongues. They're usually found fruiting in moss beds in the bush or sometimes on lawns and are easily distinguished by their flat spade- or tongue-shaped head atop a black or dark grey-brown stem. Species of *Trichoglossum* differ from *Geoglossum* by having a covering of short hairs or bristles that give them a velvety texture. When fully developed, fruit bodies are 2.5–7cm tall. There are only a few species in each genus, but are easily distinguished from each other with the naked eye.

There are two common species of earth tongues in WA, *Trichoglossum hirsutum* (above) and *Geoglossum glutinosum*. *Geoglossum glutinosum* generally has a smooth black head and a glutinous or slippery grey-brown stem, while *Trichoglossum hirsutum* is velvety, black all over and has a dry stem.

The Scientific names for both species describe their appearance. *Geo-*: earth, *trich -*: hair(s), *gloss-*: tongue, *hirsute-*: hirsute (hairy), *gluten*: sticky or viscid substance, *-osum*: denotes fullness or abundance.