



Plectania sp.

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Plectania sp. is a common but unnamed black cup fungus, easily recognised by its tough black cup-shaped fruit body. In the southwest of Western Australia, it's found in karri forest and wetter regions of jarrah forest in spring, generally fruiting on and amongst bark and twigs in deep litter. Sometimes it's found growing in moss, either on the ground or on decayed logs.

Cups are up to 1.5cm diameter with a wrinkled texture and radially indented margin. They have a tough black stem with a root-like mass of fungal mycelium radiating from the base deep into the litter. When cups are small and undeveloped (*inset above*) they are spherical with a small opening. But they are well camouflaged, resembling fallen karri or jarrah fruits amongst the litter—especially when the eucalypt fruits turn black just before they start to decay.

Plectania campylospora is very similar in appearance, but isn't wrinkled like *Plectania* sp. and is generally dark brown on the inside of the cups.

The Scientific name for the genus likely refers to the root-like mass that penetrates into the litter. *Plect-*: plaited, twined or twisted.