

Clavaria miniata — flame fungus

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Clavaria miniata, or flame fungus, belongs to a group of fungi commonly referred to as coral fungi. It's found throughout southern Australian eucalypt forests and woodlands and fruits on the ground amongst litter in early to late autumn. The simple club-shaped fruit bodies are orange-red to red in colour, grow up to 8cm tall and may be flattened or grooved. They are generally found in clusters but may be solitary.

A smaller, uncommon, red-pink species, *Clavaria corallinosacea* (*inset*), is similar, but is much smaller in stature (up to 3cm tall) with cylindrical fruit bodies that have a distinct boundary between the stem and the fertile upper portion of the club.

The scientific name refers to the shape and colour of the fruit body. *Clav-*: club, *-aria*: pertaining to or possessing, *miniata*:- painted with red lead.