



## *Psilocybe coprophila*

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*Psilocybe coprophila* is a small but distinct brown mushroom that fruits on dung. Organisms that live on dung are referred to as being coprophilous (dung-loving). It is common throughout southern and eastern Australia and in the southwest it is found mainly on dung of the western grey kangaroo. It usually fruits in autumn and may continue to be found up until early spring in all habitats, from forest to coastal heath, or where you find kangaroos.

Caps are small, rarely larger than 1.2cm, chestnut in colour, with light brown scales near the margin. The surface is usually shiny due to its sticky surface. The margin may be pleated, defining the lines of the underlying gills. Gills are crowded, brown then become black as they mature. Stems are up to 2.5cm long, slender and covered in fine light brown scales.

Generally just one or two mushrooms are found on a single scat, but occasionally you may find up to 10 or 12. They don't appear to fruit on fresh scats or those in an advanced state of decomposition.

The scientific name refers to the similarity of the shiny cap to that of a balding head and the fact that it is found on dung. *Psil*:- naked, *cybe*:- head, *copr*:- dung, *phil*:- loving or fond of.