



## *Trametes versicolor* — rainbow bracket

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*Trametes versicolor*, the rainbow bracket or rainbow fungus, is a common bracket or fan-shaped fungus that fruits on dead wood or branches on live trees, or on logs and dead branches on the ground. It's a cosmopolitan species and perhaps one of the most common wood decay fungi found throughout the world. In the northern hemisphere it is known as the turkey tail fungus. In the southwest and other regions of Australia, the rainbow bracket fungus usually fruits in autumn through to late winter in all habitats, including coastal heath, native forest, eucalypt plantations, orchards, and even on wooden fence posts.

Individual fans or brackets are up to 7cm across, about 4–5mm thick, and generally fruit in large colonies to form colourful cascading tiers. They are distinctly coloured in contrasting bands ranging from combinations of orange, blue-grey and brown (*main photo*) to brown and grey (*inset above*). Sometimes they may even be almost uniformly black, but still display the concentric banding. The underside of the brackets consists of a white layer of pores.

The scientific name refers to either the pattern or structure and the variable colouring of the brackets; *tram-*: the woof (or weft as in weaving), or *trametes-*: the thin one, *vers-*: changing (referring to colour).