



## *Russula persanguinea*

Richard Robinson, Science Division, Manjimup, [richard.robinson@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:richard.robinson@dec.wa.gov.au)



*Russula persanguinea* is found throughout southern and eastern Australia. It's an uncommon species in the southwest, usually found in tingle, karri and wetter areas of jarrah forests or coastal woodlands. It generally fruits at the base of large live trees, but can also be found on the ground or occasionally on well-rotted, moss covered logs and stumps.

Caps expand to about 7cm diameter, generally broad and flat with a central depression, cherry red and viscid or slippery when wet. Gills are pure white and crowded. Stem is also pure white, up to 7cm tall (generally thickening towards the base) and will 'snap' quite easily when bent.

At first glance *Russula persanguinea* is very similar to *Russula clelandii* (see Fungus Factsheet 43/2010) but is readily distinguished by its consistently bright red cap, and pure white gills and stem. It's also the only species of *Russula* regularly found fruiting on dead wood.

The scientific name describes the distinctive bright red colour of the cap. *Russ-*: reddish (however, this likely refers to the colour of the Northern hemisphere type specimen for *Russula*, *Russula emetrica*, which has a red cap very similar to *Russula persanguinea*); *-per-*: intensely or very, *sanguine-*: bloody or blood-red.