



Russula sp. 'white'

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Russula sp. 'white' is an unnamed species common in the south west of Western Australia in jarrah forest in early to late autumn. It has also been found in karri forest, but its distribution in other forest types and woodlands isn't known. It's a distinct species in that the cap, gills and stem are all pure white, but it usually fruits under the leaf litter and may not be seen.

Caps are generally 5–7cm diameter, flat or with a deep central depression and moist surface. Older specimens may be discoloured by dull yellow to yellow-brown blotches. Gills are crowded and sometimes forked, either at the margin or close to the stem. Stems are stout, ranging from 2.5–5cm tall and generally hollow.

There are two similar species that are also found in jarrah forest. *Russula albonigra*, which turns black with age or when damaged, and a much smaller unnamed species that tends to fruit under the litter (*inset above*). This small species also pure white but the cap is usually smaller than 2.5cm diameter, broadly convex with no central depression and its gills are creamy white.

Derivation of the scientific name, *russ-*: reddish, *-ula*: pertaining to, likely refers to the red coloured cap of the Northern hemisphere type specimen for *Russula*, *Russula emetrica*, and does not adequately describe all species. However, for other species mentioned, *alb-*: white, *nigr-*: black.