



## *Hydnoplicata convoluta*

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*Hydnoplicata convoluta* is a common fungus found throughout eucalypt forests in southern Australia including Western Australia and Tasmania. It fruits during autumn, winter and early spring. In Western Australia it is common throughout jarrah forest and associated woodlands.

The young fruit bodies are creamy white, often cup-shaped or almost spherical with a single opening. With age they become lobed and convoluted, with folds forming internal chambers (see sectioned fruit body above left), and are often stained pale yellowish, orange-brown, grey or pink (see inset above). Mature fruit bodies are generally 10–30mm in diameter (sometimes as large as 45mm), have a delicate fleshy texture and a basal attachment. They develop within the soil, mostly buried except for one or two exposed folds, making them difficult to find.

Until recently this fungus was widely known as *Peziza whitei* (named in 1954 in honour of Dr N.H. White, Plant Pathologist at the University of Sydney). However, more recent investigation revealed that it was originally described in 1896 and has therefore been renamed to comply with the original description.

The scientific name refers to its characteristic shape. *Hydn-*: ancient term for mushroom or truffle (underground fungus), *plicat-*: folded, *convoluta*: convoluted, twisted.