



## *Heterotextus peziziformis* — jelly bells

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*Heterotextus peziziformis*, commonly referred to as jelly bells, is common throughout southern and eastern Australia. In Western Australia is found in most forest, woodland and coastal habitats throughout the south west in autumn and winter.

*Heterotextus peziziformis* tends to fruit in small or large colonies on dead wood, including small twigs. Fruit bodies are hoof- or bell shaped, 3–6mm diameter, attached by a short or rudimentary stem arising laterally from the upper surface. The upper surface is orange-yellow, moist, smooth or with small rounded bumps. A swollen or rounded margin forms a thin ring between the upper and lower surface. The lower surface is dull yellow, smooth, and flat to slightly convex. The texture of the whole fruit body is firm, gelatinous.

There appear to be two species of jelly bells in Australia. *Heterotextus miltinus* is indistinguishable from *Heterotextus peziziformis*, but has different spore characteristics. Further investigation may determine them to be the same species. Another species, *Dacryopinax spathularia* (inset above) is similar, but has flatter, spade-shaped fruit bodies, a distinct stem and in the south west is commonly found on old bull banksia (*Banksia grandis*) cones.

The scientific name refers to its characteristic features. *Hetero-*: prefix meaning different or irregular, *textus*: from *textura*, meaning tissue, *peziza*: ancient term for mushroom with little or no stem, *form-*: shape