



## *Sarcodon* sp.

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Species of *Sarcodon* are known as fleshy toothed fungi. They are not thought to be common in Australia, but appear to be widespread in the southern jarrah forest in the south west of Western Australia. They fruit on the ground, often hidden under leaf and twig litter. The taxonomy of *Sarcodon* has not been investigated in detail in Australia and therefore no species have been positively identified or named.

The fruit bodies of *Sarcodon* are characterised by large—up to 120mm diameter, fleshy, brown or grey brown caps. They are often distorted or lobed with a smooth, cracked or coarsely scaled surface. Under the cap, instead of gills they have a dense covering of grey brown or creamy brown spines, which may be up to 3 or 4 mm long. The spines generally extend a short distance down the stem. Stems are often short and stout, 30–50 mm tall, about 25 mm thick, and generally taper to a blunt pointed base which may be smooth or have thick brown scales. The whole fruit body has a tough leathery texture, and if cut the internal flesh slowly stains a purple brown colour.

Species of *Hydnum* are similar (see November 2012 Fungus of the Month), but do not have the tough texture of *Sarcodon* sp.

The scientific name refers to distinguishing characters of the fruit body. *Sarc-*: fleshy, *don-*: tooth.