

Cryptogam of the Month-September 2009



Cladonia sulcata

Cladonia sulcata is a small fruticose lichen that is found on the ground usually associated with old decayed organic material. This species is easily overlooked but common on the floor of Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) forests, as it usually only grows to 1-3 cm in height. The branching fruiting body tips with pale to dark brown apothecia make this species easy to spot. Splitting or grooving can occur on the fruiting body stalks.

The thallus is a small flake-like with a green upper surface and a white underside and forms small scattered mats sometimes hidden under litter.

Cladonia sulcata can be confused with *C. tessellate*, *C. enentia* and usually requires a chemical spot test analysis for positive identification.

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