Ramaria flaccida

De’ana Williams
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Ramaria anziana

Ed Grey

Ramaria samuelsii

Paul George
Introduction

This booklet describes and illustrates some of the Coral Fungi found in Victoria either on FNCV Fungi Forays or recorded for Victoria. Each description page consists of a photo (usually taken by a Fungi Group member) and brief notes, all of which must be taken into account to aid identification. The corals are listed alphabetically by genus and species and a common name has been included. Photographs of mycelial forms and a table of spore size and shape have been added at the back of the book. A field description sheet is available as a separate PDF.

Coral Fungi are so-called because the fruit-bodies resemble marine corals. Some have intricate branching, while others are bushier with ‘florets’ like a cauliflower or broccolini. They also include those species that have simple club-shaped or spine-shaped fruit-bodies. Coral fungi are noted for their exquisite colouring – every shade of white, cream, grey, blue, purple, orange and red - found across the range of species.

In this revision five species have been added: *Deflexula fascicularis*, *Hericium coralloides*, *Macrotyphula juncea*, *Mucronella pendula* and *Pterula gracilis*.

The fertile surface bearing the spores of coral fungi is the external surface of the upper branches. Most species have a white spore print while *Ramaria* species have a yellow to yellow-brown spore print, which is sometimes seen when the mature spores dust the coral branches.

Most Corals grow on the ground, but there are some exceptions. Eight grow on wood - the two *Artomyces* species, *Deflexula fascicularis*, *Hericium coralloides*, *Mucronella pendula*, *Multiclavula mucida*, *Pterula gracilis* and *Ramaria ochracea*. *Ramaria filicicola* grows on woody litter and Tree-fern stems. *Macrotyphula juncea* grows on wet litter, leaves and twigs. Usually *Ramariopsis crocea* and *R. kunzei* grow on the ground in moss and litter, but are also occasionally found on Tree-fern stems.

In the description page, a photo illustrates each species and photographers are acknowledged just below the image. The notes start with a general description of the mature fruit-body – **size**, **shape** and **colour** (which may differ in young specimens). Size relates to the whole fruit-body but the height is described as **very tall/very large** over 150 mm, **tall/large** - 90 to 150 mm, **medium** - 50 to 90 mm, **small** - 20 to 50 mm, and **tiny** – under 20 mm. A more detailed identification follows and includes growth habit and habitat. Other images of the described species have also been included.
A QUICK FIELD INDICATION

ON GROUND

CAULIFLOWER-SHAPED

CAULIFLOWER-SHAPED, LARGE (90 to 150 mm tall)
Pale yellow – orange yellow, viscid
   *Ramaria capitata var. capitata* p 40
Salmon pink, non-viscid
   *Ramaria capitata var. ochraceosalmonicolor* p 41

CAULIFLOWER-SHAPED, MEDIUM (50 to 90 mm tall)
Red
   *Ramaria stuntzii var. gelatinosa* p 49

CORAL-SHAPED

CORAL-SHAPED, VERY LARGE (over 150 mm tall)
Pale straw with a hint of pink
   *Aphelaria complanata* p 8
Wine-red
   *Ramaria australiana var. australiana* p 38

CORAL-SHAPED, LARGE (90 to 150 mm tall)
Buff, tips red to pale pink-reddish
   *Ramaria botrytoides* p 39
Buff to pale tan
   *Ramaria pyrispora* p 47
Buff with blue tips
   *Ramaria zippelii* p 52
Fawn with some dark tips
   *Clavulina vinaceocervina* p 21
Lavender
   *Ramaria fennica var. fumigata* p 42
Orange to salmon-pink
   *Ramaria anziana* p 37
Pale to dark ash grey
   *Clavaria cinerea* p 16
Pink, tips yellow
   *Ramaria samuelsii* p 48
Purple to vinaceous purple
   *Ramaria versatilis var. latispora* p 50
Straw yellow to pale ochre
   *Ramaria watlingii* p 51
ON GROUND cont.

**CORAL-SHAPED, LARGE (90 to 150 mm tall) cont.**

- Violet to purple
  - *Clavaria zollingeri* p 14
- Yellow with wine-red bruising
  - *Ramaria lori* p 45

**CORAL-SHAPED, MEDIUM (50-90 mm tall)**

- Mustard-yellow
  - *Ramaria flaccida* p 44
- Pale yellow to buff
  - *Tremellodendropsis pusio* p 60
- White
  - *Ramariopsis kunzei* p 55
- White with spiky tips
  - *Clavulina coralloides* p 17

**CORAL-SHAPED, SMALL (20 to 50 mm tall)**

- Brown to red-brown
  - *Ramariopsis ramarioides* p 57
- Green-yellow
  - *Ramaria abietina* p 36
- Rich mauve
  - *Ramariopsis pulchella* p 56
- Yellow
  - *Ramariopsis crocea* p 54

**CLUB-SHAPED**

**CLUB-SHAPED, TALL (90 to 150 mm tall)**

- Red
  - *Clavulinopsis sulcata* p 26
- White, in exotic vegetation
  - *Clavulina rugosa* p 18
- White, in native vegetation
  - *Clavaria fragilis group* p 12
- Yellow
  - *Clavulinopsis amoena* p 22
  - *Clavulinopsis fusiformis* p 25

**CLUB-SHAPED, MEDIUM (50 to 90 mm tall)**

- Buff
  - *Clavaria tenuipes* p 13
- Dark ash grey to grey-brown,
  - *Clavulina tasmanica* p 20
ON GROUND cont.

**CLUB-SHAPED, MEDIUM (50 to 90 mm tall) cont.**

**Orange-yellow**
- *Clavulinopsis depokensis*  
  p 24

**Pink and red**
- *Clavulinopsis corallinorosacea*  
  p 23

**Yellow**
- *Ramariopsis simplex*  
  p 58

**White, in native vegetation**
- *Clavulina subrugosa*  
  p 19

**CLUB-SHAPED, SMALL (20 to 50 mm tall)**

**White, in native vegetation**
- *Clavicorona taxophila*  
  p 15

**CLUB-SHAPED, TINY (1 to 20 mm tall)**

**Orange, tiny**
- *Multiclavula vernalis*  
  p 33

**ON LITTER**

**CLUB-SHAPED, MEDIUM (50 to 90 mm tall)**

**Whitish**
- *Macrotypula juncea*  
  p 30

**ON WOODY LITTER**

**CORAL-SHAPED, LARGE (90 to 150 mm tall)**

**Buff with white tips**
- *Ramaria filicicola*  
  p 43

**ON DICKSONIA ANTARCTICA SMOOTH TREE-FERN**

**CORAL-SHAPED, LARGE (90 to 150 mm tall)**

**Buff with white tips**
- *Ramaria filicicola*  
  p 43

**CORAL-SHAPED, MEDIUM (50 to 90 mm tall)**

**White**
- *Ramariopsis kunzei*  
  p 55

**CORAL-SHAPED, SMALL (20 to 50 mm)**

**Yellow, delicate**
- *Ramariopsis crocea*  
  p 54

**SPINE-SHAPED**

**Whitish**
- *Pterula gracilis*  
  p 34
ON DEAD WOOD

CORAL-SHAPED

CORAL-SHAPED, LARGE (90 to 120 mm tall)
Whitish to fawn
Artomyces austropiperatus

CORAL-SHAPED, MEDIUM (50 to 90 mm tall)
Pale ochre
Ramaria ochracea
Whitish to fawn
Artomyces colensoi group

CLUB-SHAPED, TINY (1 to 20 mm tall)
White
Multiclavula mucida

SPINE-SHAPED

SPINE-SHAPED, LARGE (90-120 mm long)
Straw
Hericium coralloides

SPINE-SHAPED, SMALL (20 to 50 mm tall)
Translucent white
Mucronella pendula

SPINE-SHAPED, TINY (1 to 20 mm tall)
White
Pterula gracilis
Whitish to dirty cream
Deflexula fascicularis
Aphelaria complanata
Straw-head Aphelaria

Fruit-body: a very large, compact spherical mass, multi-branched; branches are upright, somewhat flattened and thin, and are coloured pale straw with a hint of pink

- **Size** to 200 mm tall or higher x 160 mm wide.
- **Branches** to 3mm thick, tapering upwards becoming fine (to less than 1mm thick), long, somewhat flattened, pale straw with a hint of pink.
- **Branch tips** rounded, pale, off-white.
- **Spore print** white.
- **Odour** often strong and unpleasant.

**Habit**: solitary.
**Habitat**: on the ground.
Artomyces austropiperatus

Reiner Richter

Artomyces colensoi

De’ana Williams
Artomyces austropiperatus
Peppery Coral

Fruit-body: large, multi-branched; branches have crown-like tips, whitish, pink-beige or fawn. The larger of two very similar corals growing on wood.

- **Size** to 120 mm tall x 80 mm wide.
- **Branches** upright, to 6 mm thick, each with 4-6 branches developing at the point of division, forming up to 6 ranks, whitish, pink-beige or fawn.
- **Branch tips** crown-like (coronate), whitish to fawn.
  - **Stem** to 20 mm tall x 4 mm thick, concolourous with branches.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** – immediate or delayed, strong, persistent peppery taste. Often multiple fruit-bodies grow close together. Compare size difference with the similar-looking *A. colensoi* (p 11)

**Habit:** gregarious and grouped close together.
**Habitat:** on fallen wood in wet native forests.
Artomyces colensoi group
Delicate Peppery Coral

Fruit-body: medium, multi-branched; branches have crown-like tips, whitish to fawn. The smaller of two very similar corals growing on wood.

- **Size** to 60 mm tall x 15 mm wide.
- **Branches** upright, very fine, less than 1mm thick, with 2-4 branches developing at the point of division, forming up to 6 ranks whitish to fawn.
- **Branch tips** crown-like (coronate), whitish to fawn.
- **Stem** to 10 mm tall x 1.5 mm thick.
- **Spore print** white.

Note - delayed peppery taste. Often multiple fruit-bodies grow close together. This group includes *A. candelabrus*, which is only differentiated on minor microscopical features. Compare size difference with the similar-looking *A. austropiperatus* (p 10)

**Habit**: gregarious and grouped close together.
**Habitat**: on fallen wood in wet native forests.
Clavaria fragilis group
Brittle Club

Fruit-body: tall, simple club; usually grows in dense clusters, often caespitose (with all the clubs joined together at the base), white, very brittle.

- **Size** to 100 mm tall x 4 mm thick.
- **Club** simple, white, smooth.
- **Club tip** rounded, not acute or crested, white, becoming pointed and yellow to brown with age.
- **Stem** merges smoothly into the club, white.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** – the group consists of a number of similar white clubs including *C. acuta* and *C. alboglobospora* that can only be securely separated on microscopic grounds.

**Habit:** dense clusters, caespitose.

**Habitat:** on the ground in eucalypt forests.
Clavaria tenuipes
Buff Club

Fruit-body: medium, simple or once-branched club; the club is pale yellow to buff with a distinctly darker stem.

- **Size** to 85 mm tall x 5 mm thick.
- **Club** simple or once branched, longitudinally grooved, pale yellow to buff, smooth.
- **Club tip** rounded to flattened, pale yellow to buff.
- **Stem** distinct, tapering downwards, yellow-brown, darker than club.
- **Spore print** white.

**Habit:** gregarious in groups.
**Habitat:** on the ground in litter or bare soil, in native forests.
**Clavaria zollingeri**

**Violet Coral**

Fruit-Body: large, multi-branched; branches have rounded tips and grow from a short stem; fruit-body is violet to pinkish ageing dull grey-brown.

- **Size** to 100 mm tall x 70 mm wide.
- **Branches** to 6 mm thick, usually dichotomous (divided into two), violet, pinkish, aging to dull grey-brown, fragile, brittle, dry, smooth.
- **Branch tips** rounded with 2-4 blunt protrusions, purple to brownish, often white with spores.
- **Stem** very short, pale grey-purple, arises from a white mycelial mat, occasionally with white mycelium over the base.
- **Spore print** white.
- **Note** – the slightly smaller fruit-body and different shaped branch tips of *Clavaria zollingeri* differentiate it from the similarly-coloured *Ramaria fennnica* var. *fumigata* (p 42) and *Ramaria versatilis* var. *latispora* (p50)

**Habit**: usually solitary.

**Habitat**: on the ground in litter under Tree-ferns and eucalypts in wet forests.
**Clavicorona taxophila**

**Fluted Trumpet**

**Fruit-body:** small, delicate, simple trumpet-like club; trumpet is snowy-white and longitudinally striate, flaring out at apex to look frilly.

- **Size** to 30 mm tall x 6 mm thick at apex, narrowing to 2 mm thick at base.
- **Club** simple, trumpet-shaped, narrowing at base, longitudinally striate, white, ageing slightly yellow.
- **Club tips** slightly cup-shaped, thin, with a crown-like to frilly rim.
- **Stem** translucent, arises from a white hairy mycelial mat.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** – grows in moist soil after heavy rain.

**Habit:** groups, sometimes a single fruit-body, occasionally in 2’s.

**Habitat:** on the ground amongst litter in dry eucalypt forests after heavy rain.
Clavulina cinerea
Ash-grey Coral

Fruit-body: large, multi-branched or unbranched; branches are pale to dark ash-grey to purple, and often dulled with a powdery bloom.

- **Size** to 120 mm tall x 60 mm wide.
- **Branches** to 10 mm thick, ash-grey, or with a hint of purple if infected, smooth to wrinkled, or longitudinally grooved.
- **Branch tips** fat and blunt or slightly crested, can be a darker grey or brown.
- **Stem** present as a short, fleshy sterile base, white to ochre.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** – Immature specimens are white and smaller. Fruit-bodies may be infected with the pyrenomycete *Helminthosphaeria clavariaerum* which causes a colour change from ash-grey to purple tinge. A hand lens should show the embedded perithecia as black dots.

**Habit:** solitary or gregarious, forming densely branched tufts.
**Habitat:** on the ground in eucalypt and exotic trees.
Clavulina coralloides (Clavulina cristata)

Spiky Coral

Fruit-body: large, sparingly branched; branches are white with spiky tips, ageing ochre to brownish.

- **Size** to 100 mm tall x 100 mm wide.
- **Branches** to 4 mm thick, sparingly or repeatedly divided (up to 4 times), white with occasional pink tinges, flattened.
- **Branch tips** usually crested with several sharp points (cristate), white often ageing darker.
- **Stem** to 30 mm tall x 5 mm thick, white.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** – In most cases not all the branch tips are crested, but there are always some, which will identify the species. Specimens are routinely infected with the pyrenomycete *Helminthosphoeria clavariarum* which causes a colour change from white to grey to black. A hand lens should show the embedded perithecia as black dots.

**Habit**: solitary or gregarious.

**Habitat**: on the ground in native forests, woodlands, heaths and exotic trees.
**Clavulina rugosa**

**Wrinkled Coral**

**Fruit-body:** tall, unbranched to sparsely branched; club is often contorted; white. Always grows with exotic (i.e. non-native) vegetation.

- **Size** to 120 mm tall x 15 mm thick.
- **Club** contorted and twisted or simple, sometimes flattened, white, smooth to wrinkled.
- **Club tip** blunt or crested.
- **Stem** not clearly defined.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** – *Clavulina rugosa* only grows with exotic, non-native plants, unlike the similar-looking *Clavulina subrugosa* (p 19) that is only found amongst Eucalypt or native vegetation. Specimens are routinely infected with the pyrenomycete *Helminthphoerica clavariarum* which causes a colour change from white to grey to black. A hand lens should show the embedded perithecia as black dots.

**Habit:** solitary or gregarious.
**Habitat:** on the ground, always with exotic trees (conifers and hardwoods).
**Clavulina subrugosa**  
**White Club**

**Fruit-body:** medium, usually a simple club but can be branched; club is sometimes wrinkled; off-white. Always grows in eucalypt forests.

- **Size** to 85 mm tall x 8 mm thick.
- **Club** simple or sparsely branched, off-white to yellowish, smooth.
- **Club tip** rounded, not acute or crested.
- **Stem** to 4 mm thick, white becoming darker.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** – *Clavulina subrugosa* is never amongst exotic vegetation like *C. rugosa* (p 18), nor does it grow in caespitose groups like the *Clavaria fragilis* group (p 12).

**Habit:** solitary or clustered.  
**Habitat:** on the ground, always in eucalypt forests.
**Clavulina tasmanica**  
Lumpy Coral

**Fruit-body:** small to medium, sparsely branched; branches are irregular and lumpy, deep ash-grey with a whitish to tan, bloom, widening at top, and often splits into pale tan tips.

- **Size** to 25 (70) mm tall to 5 (7) mm wide.
- **Branches** irregular, can be simple to sparsely branched (in pairs or occasionally in three’s), greyish-brown with whitish to tan bloom, lumpy.
- **Branch tips** split at the apex into 2-6 finger-like forms, pale tan.
- **Stem** short, to 4 mm thick, pale, arises from an off-white basal mycelial pad.
- **Spore print** white.

**Habit:** gregarious to caespitose in groups of up to 4 individuals.  
**Habitat:** mossy soil in wet eucalypt forests.
Clavulina vinaceocervina
Dark-tipped Coral

Fruit-body: large, contorted or irregularly branched; branches are pink to fawn, and there are always some with dark tips.

- **Size** to 100 mm tall x 60 mm wide.
- **Branches** variable, often flattened, twisted or short, stout or thin, pink to fawn, wrinkled and knobby.
- **Branch tips** blunt or acute and thorn-like, dark (vinaceous).
- **Stem** to 10 mm tall x 3 mm thick, whitish, arises from a small white mycelial mat ca. 8 mm diameter.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** - there are always some dark tips to identify the species; the fruit-body bruises brown.

**Habit**: solitary or clustered.
**Habitat**: on the ground amongst shrubs in eucalypt forests and rainforests.
**Clavulinopsis amoena** (*Clavaria amoena*)

**Yellow Club**

**Fruit-body:** tall, simple club; club is cylindrical, occasionally flattened, and bright yellow to orange.

- **Size** to 100 mm tall x 5 mm thick.
- **Club** simple, cylindrical but sometimes flattened and grooved, sometimes forked, bright yellow to orange.
- **Club tip** tapering, narrowly to broadly rounded.
- **Stem** to 17 mm long x 3 mm thick, translucent pale yellow, may or may not arise from a small whitish mycelial patch.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** — *Clavulinopsis amoena* although sometimes flattened, is not twisted like the club of *C. depokensis* (p 24), and, unlike *C. fusiformis* (p 25), does not emerge in tight or caespitose clusters. If smaller than 70 mm tall x 4 mm wide, check *Ramariopsis simplex* (p 58).

**Habit:** solitary or gregarious in groups.

**Habitat:** on the ground amongst moss and rotting woody litter of native forests and woodlands.
**Clavulinopsis corallinorosacea**  
*(Clavaria corallinorosacea)*  
**Rosy Coral Club**

**Fruit-body:** medium, simple club; club is pale pink to reddish with a distinct red stem.

- **Size** to 80 mm tall x 3 mm thick.
- **Club** simple, smooth, cylindrical, with a pale pink fertile surface caused by the white powdery bloom of spores.
- **Club tip** blunt.
- **Stem** to 2 mm thick, red in contrast to the pale pink fertile top.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** – old fruit-bodies lose the pale bloom and become completely red, and look similar to the all-red *C. sulcata* (p 26).

**Habit:** gregarious in small groups.  
**Habitat:** on the ground amongst moss and litter of native forests.
Clavulinopsis depokensis (Clavaria depokensis)
Bright Orange-yellow Club

Fruit-body: medium, simple club; club is bright orange to yellow, flattened and twisted, and the tips often age brown.

- **Size** to 80 mm tall x 7 mm thick (usually much narrower).
- **Club** simple, cylindrical or flattened, sometimes divided, commonly twisted, bright orange to yellow, waxy or smooth.
- **Club tip** tapered or rounded, yellow, often ageing brown.
- **Stem** narrower than club, very short to 5 mm long, occasionally two may unite to form a single stem, lemon-yellow; arises from a small white mycelial pad.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** – the Clavulinopsis depokensis club is twisted, with pointed, often brownish branch tips unlike the all-yellow *C. amoena* (p 22).

**Habit**: clustered in groups.
**Habitat**: on the ground in deep moist litter of eucalypt forests.
**Clavulinopsis fusiformis (Clavaria fusiformis)**

**Golden Spindles**

Fruit-body: tall, simple club; club is bright yellow with sharp, brown tips. They emerge in tight clusters from an underground fused base.

- **Size** to 150 mm tall x 10 mm thick.
- **Club** simple, often flattened, sometimes with longitudinal grooves, bright yellow to orange-yellow, fading with age, dry.
- **Club tip** sharply pointed, with brownish tints.
- **Stem** not defined, clusters of clubs arise from a white underground fused base.
- **Spore print** white.

Note – *Clavulinopsis fusiformis* clubs emerge in tight or caespitose clusters, unlike *C. amoena* (p 22) and *C. depokensis* (24) whose clubs emerge singly or gregariously.

**Habit:** clustered on an underground fused base.

**Habitat:** on the ground in native forests.
Clavulinopsis sulcata (Clavaria miniata)
Flame Fungus

Fruit-body: tall, simple club, occasionally some branching; club is red to orange with a red to orange stem.

- **Size** to 100 mm tall x 5 mm thick.
- **Club** variously shaped – flattish, slender, contorted, colour varies from red, orange-pink to reddish orange, smooth.
- **Club tip** rounded or tapered, occasionally divided, red or yellowish.
- **Stem** to 20 mm long x 5 mm thick, no distinct colour difference between the stem and club.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** – Clavulinopsis sulcata is always completely reddish, unlike C. corallinorosacea (p 23) which has a pink club and red stem.

**Habit:** clustered in groups.
**Habitat:** on the ground amongst moss and litter of native forests.
Clavulinopsis sulcata

Claire Ferguson
Deflexula fascicularis (*Pterula fascicularis*)
Clustered Icicle

Fruit-body: small, spines single or clustered, pendulous; spines are whitish to dirty cream, sometimes with lilac tints. Grows on wood.

- **Size** to 15 mm long x 2 mm thick.
- **Spine** simple, sometimes branched, thin, finger-like, whitish to dirty cream, sometimes with lilac tints, smooth.
- **Spine tip** tapers to a point.
- **Stem** not clearly defined.
- **Spore print** white.

Note – *D. fascicularis* grows in a similar fashion (i.e. solitary or gregarious) to *Mucronella pendula* (p 31), but lacks a distinctive stem.

**Habit**: single or in clusters.

**Habitat**: on dead or living wood, often of a rought-barked species in native forests.
**Hericium coralloides (H. clathroides)**

*Coral Tooth*

**Fruit-body:** very large, multi-branched; a stem supports a mass of coral-like branches from which pendulous fragile spines are evenly distributed; white to creamy-yellow. Grows on dead wood.

- **Size** to 500 mm diameter x 250 mm depth.
- **Branches** wavy to drooping, white ageing creamy-yellow, felty to smooth, brittle, subdivide from the stem into thinner branches.
- **Spine** to 15 mm long x 1 mm diameter, slender, simple, pendulous, attached to side or underside of a branch, white to creamy-yellow, smooth, fragile, tapers to a pointed tip.
- **Stem** to 40 mm wide, lateral, white to cream, tough, smooth, rooted in substrate.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** – a variant of this coral is more compact with shorter spines (see above image by Geoff Lay).

**Habit:** single or in groups.
**Habitat:** on dead wood of native or introduced trees in wet areas.
Macrotyphula juncea
Fairy Club

Fruit-body: medium, simple club; club is very thin, cylindrical, white to tan with a distinct brown stem arising directly from the substrate.

- **Size** to 80 mm tall x 2 mm thick.
- **Club** simple, cylindrical, thin, white to tan, smooth.
- **Club tip** blunt.
- **Stem** to 25 mm tall x 2 mm thick, brown, arising from a white mycelial disc or white rhizomorphs that are interwoven amongs the substrate.
- **Spore print** white.

**Habit:** scattered or in clusters.
**Habitat:** on wet leaves and litter in native forests.
Fruit-body: small, single, pendulous spine; spine is translucent white with a distinct stem. Grows on fallen wood.

- **Size** to 25 mm long x 10 mm thick at base tapering to a point.
- **Spine** simple, spear-head shape, translucent white, smooth.
- **Spine tip** pointed.
- **Stem** to 10 mm long x 3 mm thick, narrow, cylindrical, white, gelatinous; stem remains after the club has liquefied and disappeared.
- **Spore print** white.

Note – *M. pendula* drips a watery substances from the spine tip.

**Habit:** single or in groups.

**Habitat:** on wet rotting wood, particularly hollow ends or lower surfaces of fallen trunks in sheltered positions in native forests.
Multiclavula mucida
White-club Scum-lover

Fruit-body: tiny, simple club; club is slender and white. This is a lichenised fungus growing with a Coccomyxa alga on wood.

- **Size** to 13 mm tall x 2 mm thick.
- **Club** simple or once-branched, often flattened, white to cream, smooth.
- **Club tip** rounded, may brown when dehydrated.
- **Stem** difficult to distinguish from club, but is narrower and more translucent, and arises from a minute white mycelial pad.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** – The white clubs growing in algal scum on wood differentiates *Multiclavula mucida* from *M. vernalis* (p 33) which has orange clubs and grows in algal scum on soil.

**Habit:** scattered or in groups.
**Habitat:** in algal scum (*Coccomyxa* sp.) on wet, debarked, rotting wood.
**Multiclavula vernalis**

*Orange-club Scum-lover*

**Fruit-body:** tiny, simple club usually unbranched; club is slender, pale orange with a distinctly paler stem. There is often a small white spot at the apex, like a cap. This is a lichenised fungus growing with a *Coccomyxa* alga on wet soil.

- **Size** to 14 mm tall x 2.5 mm thick.
- **Club** simple, pale orange, smooth, easily distinguished from stem.
- **Club tip** bluntly rounded.
- **Stem** to 7 mm long x 1.5 mm thick, pale yellowish, arises from a minute whitish mycelial pad on alga-covered soil.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** – The orange clubs growing in algal scum on soil differentiates *Multiclavula vernalis* from *M. mucida* (p 32) which has white clubs and grows in algal scum on wood.

- **Habit:** groups.
- **Habitat:** in algal scum (*Coccomyxa* sp.) on wet, sandy or silty soil.
**Pterula gracilis (Typhula gracilis)**

**White Spikes**

Fruit-body: small, simple spine; the translucent white spine is cylindrical and tapers to a point. Grows on dead wood and dead Tree-fern rachises.

- **Size** to 5 mm long x less than 1 mm thick.
- **Spine** simple, cylindrical, tapers to an acute point, translucent white, shiny, smooth.
- **Spine tip** acutely pointed.
- **Stem** absent.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** – the spine base bristles with short hairs two-three microns in diameter.

**Habit:** single or in groups.

**Habitat:** on dead wood and often on dead rachises of Tree-ferns.
Macrotyphula juncea

Max Campbell
Ramaria abietina (Phaeoclavulina abietina)
Green-staining Coral

Fruit-body: small, multi-branched; branches are yellowish, staining green all over and grow in deep litter.

- **Size** to 35 mm tall x 25 mm wide.
- **Branches** upright, slender, yellowish becoming green, axils (branch divisions) narrowly round.
- **Branch tips** bluntly pointed, yellowish becoming green.
- **Stem** to 15 mm long x 2 mm thick, yellowish-green, white at base, arises from a white mycelial mat, white rhizomorphs present.
- **Spore print** yellow.

**Note** - because of its small-size and yellow-green colour, this coral could easily be overlooked or mistaken for a moss.

**Habit:** clusters, often in fairy rings.
**Habitat:** on the ground in deep litter.
Ramaria anziana
Orange and Salmon-pink Coral

Fruit-body: large, multi-branched; branches are numerous, upright, orange or salmon-pink with yellow tips and arise from a single or compound stem.

- **Size** to 110 mm tall x 85 mm wide.
- **Branches** upright, slender, cylindrical, orange to salmon-pink, smooth or (rarely) finely grooved, axils (branch divisions) round to narrowly round.
- **Branch tips** slenderly pointed (awl-shaped) or with blunt protrusions, yellow.
- **Stem** to 20 mm long x 10 mm thick, often compound where several small stems fuse (to 30 mm x 20 mm). The stem is pale at base becoming orange or salmon-pink towards the branches, smooth to pruinose (finely powdery); aborted (undeveloped) branches present.
- **Spore print** yellow-brown.

**Note** – the orange fruit-body, lack of fruity odour and the occasional compound stem differentiates *R. anziana* from the similar-looking *R. samuelsii* (p 48).

**Habit**: gregarious.
**Habitat**: on the ground in litter of eucalypt forests.
**Ramaria australiana var. australiana**  
**Wine-red Coral**

**Fruit-body:** very large, multi-branched; at first the branches are compact, then more open (coralloid), and coloured vinaceous (wine red), ageing to brown.

- **Size** to 160 mm tall x 160 mm wide.
- **Branches** long, vinaceous, main axils (branch divisions) variable from round to V-shaped.
- **Branch tips** rounded with 2-4 blunt protrusions, vinaceous becoming brown.
- **Stem** stout, to 50 mm long x 25 mm thick, cylindrical and deeply rooting, white becoming pallid pink, smooth; aborted (undeveloped) branches present.
- **Spore print** yellow-brown.

**Habit:** solitary or in 2’s.  
**Habitat:** in soil and amongst litter of wet eucalypt forests.
Richard Hartland John Eichler

Ramaria botrytoides
Pink-tipped Coral

Fruit-body: large, multi-branched; branches are white, cream to pale pink becoming yellow-brown with spore stains; branch tips pale pink to reddish. The stem is white.

- **Size** to 120 mm tall x 110 mm wide.
- **Branches** becoming long, white to cream to pale pink becoming yellow-brown with spore stains, main axils (branch divisions) round.
- **Branch tips** with blunt protrusions, pale pink to reddish.
- **Stem** to 40 mm long x 15 mm thick, white; aborted branches present.
- **Spore print** yellow-brown.

*Note* - immature specimens are more compact and have cream to pinkish short branches with reddish tips. Dr A Young has determined that *R. botrytis* does not occur in Australia and that all collections labelled *R. botrytis* are *R. botrytoides*.

**Habit**: solitary or in small groups.
**Habitat**: on the ground amongst litter in wet eucalypt forests.
Ramaria capitata var. capitata
Pale Cauliflower Coral

Fruit-body: large, multi-branched; branches are terraced to cauliflower-shaped, pale yellow to orange-yellow. The branch tips are viscid and yellow. The stem is off-white.

- **Size** to 150 mm tall x 150 mm wide.
- **Branches** to 10 mm thick, pale yellow, finely grooved longitudinally, axils (branch divisions) usually acute.
- **Branch tips** swollen and almost fused together when they form a completely closed surface, yellow, viscid.
- **Stem** to 20 mm long x 10 mm thick, solid, rounded, hairy, off-white.
- **Spore print** yellow-brown.

**Note** – The fruit-body of *R. capitata* var. *capitata* bruises brown. This variety has viscid branch tips and soil particles often adhere to them, unlike the branch tips of *R. capitata* var. *ochraceosalmonicolor* (p 41) which are dry (non-viscid).

**Habit**: solitary to gregarious.
**Habitat**: on the ground in leaf litter of native forests.
**Ramaria capitata var. ochraceosalmonicolor**

**Salmon-pink Cauliflower Coral**

**Fruit-body:** large, multi-branched, cauliflower-shaped; branches are salmon-pink. The branch tips tend to fuse together and are dry (not viscid). The stem is off-white.

- **Size** to 150 mm tall x 150 mm wide.
- **Branches** to 10 mm thick, salmon-pink to apricot-pink, axils (branch divisions), usually acute.
- **Branch tips** fuse together forming a completely closed surface, yellowish-orange, dry (non viscid).
- **Stem** to 20 mm long x 10 mm thick, rounded, off-white, hairy.
- **Spore print** yellow-brown.

**Note** – The fruit-body of *R. capitata* var. *ochraceosalmonicolor* bruises brown. This variety has dry branch tips and soil particles do not adhere to them as it does on the viscid branch tips of *R. capitata* var. *capitata* (p 40).

**Habit:** solitary to gregarious.

**Habitat:** on the ground in leaf litter of native forests.
Ramaria fennica var. fumigata
Lavender Coral

Fruit-body: large, multi-branched; branches have tapering tips
and vary in colour from lavender to violet-purple-brown,
ageing to clay-pink.

- **Size** to 140 mm tall x 80 mm wide.
- **Branches** to 4 mm thick, cylindrical, lavender to purple; yellow brown spores
  show as brownish patches, axils (branch divisions) round.
- **Branch tips** tapered, two to four blunt protrusions, lavender to purple-brown.
- **Stem** to 40 mm long x 25 mm thick, white at base, becoming lavender near
  first branching.
- **Spore print** yellow-brown.

**Note** – *R. fennica* var. *fumigata* with multiple thin branches is a similar size and
colour to *R. versatilis* var. *latispora* (p 50), which has fewer and thicker branches.
In comparison with the similarly-coloured *Clavaria zollingeri* (p 14), *R. fennica*
var. *fumigata* has a larger fruit-body and different shaped branch tips.

**Habit:** solitary or in groups.
**Habitat:** on the ground in eucalypt forests.
Ramaria filicicola (R. gracilis)

Pale Buff Coral

Fruit-body: large, multi-branched; branches are upright and buff with white tapered tips. It grows in woody litter.

- **Size** to 100 mm tall x 60 mm wide.
- **Branches** are very upright, buff, axils (branch divisions) usually rounded.
- **Branch tips** tapered with 2-5 sharp points or blunt protrusions, dull white.
- **Stem** to 20 mm long x 5 mm thick, pale buff, mostly smooth, arises from a white mycelial mat with abundant white root-like rhizomorphs, both of which are attached to woody litter.
- **Spore print** yellow-brown.

**Note** – has a slightly aniseed smell. Dr A Young has determined that *R. gracilis* does not occur in Australia and that all Australian collections labelled *R. gracilis* are, in fact, *R. filicicola*.

**Habit**: solitary or in groups, often forming a ring.

**Habitat**: in woody litter on the ground with native or exotic trees and on Tree-fern stems.
**Ramaria flaccida (Phaeoclavulina flaccida)**

*Mustard-yellow Coral*

**Fruit-body:** medium, multi-branched; branches are upright and mustard-yellow with finely pointed tips.

- **Size** to 60 mm tall x 40 mm wide.
- **Branches** upright, mustard-yellow, arising close to ground level, axils (branch divisions) narrowly rounded.
- **Branch tips** finely pointed, slightly paler than branches.
- **Stem,** where present, to 20 mm long x 4 mm thick, often well below ground level, arises from a mass of cream rhizomorphs and occasionally a cream mycelial mat.
- **Spore print** yellow-brown.

**Habit:** in groups, sometimes forming rings.
**Habitat:** on the ground in eucalypt forest and Tea-tree thickets.
Ramaria lorphithamnus
Yellow Tufted Coral

Fruit-body: large, multi-branched; yellow branches grow from a small whitish stem, and the fruit-body stains red-brown. It also tends to grow in clusters.

- **Size** to 100 mm tall x 40 mm wide (tufts to 80 mm wide).
- **Branches** mostly upright, cylindrical, yellow, ageing buff, smooth, axils (branch divisions) rounded.
- **Branch tips** dichotomous (divided into two) with rather blunt prongs, pale yellow.
- **Stem** to 25 mm long x 4 mm thick, whitish, smooth.
- **Spore print** yellow-brown.

**Note** - bruising of the fruit-body leaves a wine-red or brown stain on the surface.

**Habit:** in clusters and groups.
**Habitat:** on the ground in eucalypt forests.
Ramaria ochracea (Phaeoclavulina ochracea)
Delicate Coral

Fruit-body: medium, multi-branched; branches are fine, cream to pale ochre with pointed tips. Grows on wood and Tree-fern stems.

- **Size** to 55 mm tall x 35 mm wide.
- **Branches** to 1.5 mm thick, upright, fine, cream to pale ochre, axils (branch divisions) round.
- **Branch tips** pointed, usually dichotomous (divided into two) whitish, ageing pale tan.
- **Stem** to 30 mm long x 6 mm thick, thin, arises from a whitish mycelial ball or tuft.
- **Spore print** pale yellow-brown.

**Habit**: solitary or in small groups.
**Habitat**: on dead wood and Tree-fern stems.
Ramaria pyrispora
Flaring Branched Coral

Fruit-body: large, multi-branched, coralloid; branches are pale tan to buff, tips off-white with pointed or blunt protrusions.

- **Size** to 110 mm tall x 80 mm wide.
- **Branches** flare as they ascend, somewhat flattened, pale tan to buff, axils (branch divisions) narrowly round.
- **Branch tips** have pointed or blunt protrusions, pale almost white.
- **Stem** to 20 mm long x 10 mm thick, tapering down to an acute somewhat hairy base, white, soil and litter attached, sparse white mycelium was observed but not white rhizomorphs; aborted (undeveloped) branches present.
- **Spore print** yellow-brown.

**Note** – Does not colour when bruised. *Ramaria pyrispora* can be differentiated from the similar-looking *R. filicicola* (p 43) by the absence of a mycelial mat attached to woody litter. There are two other similar yellowish *Ramaria* species – *R. subtilis* var. *microspora* and *R. xanthosperma* var.*australiana*.

**Habit**: groups, often forming a ring.
**Habitat**: in ground amongst the litter in wet eucalypt forests.
Ramaria samuelsii
Upright Pink Coral

Fruit-body: large, multi-branched; compact fruit-body, branches are very upright, pink with yellow tips, and a distinct stout stem.

- **Size** to 100 mm tall x 60 mm wide.
- **Branches** very upright, cylindrical, longitudinally grooved, pink, axils (branch divisions) roundish.
- **Branch tips** consist of 4 blunt, rounded protrusions, bright yellow fading to pale yellow; bruises a pale wine-colour.
- **Stem** to 20 mm long x 10 mm thick, stout, white becoming pink towards branches, bruises a weak brown; aborted (undeveloped) branches present.
- **Odour** weakly fragrant.
- **Spore print** yellow-brown.

**Note** - the pink branches, fruity odour, and very upright structure of *Ramaria samuelsii* differentiates it from the similar-looking *R. anziana* (p 37).

**Habit**: gregarious.
**Habitat**: on the ground amongst humus, and leaf litter of eucalypt woodland and forest.
Ramaria stuntzii var. gelatinosa
Red-tipped Cauliflower Coral

Fruit-body: medium, cauliflower-shaped; branches are pink to bright pink, and branch tips dry and bright red. The stem is hairy and the white flesh distinctly gelatinous.

- **Size** to 70 mm tall x 60 mm wide.
- **Branches** cylindrical, pink to bright pink, axils (branch divisions) narrowly rounded.
- **Branch tips** crowded, rounded, ending in several blunt protrusions, bright red, dry.
- **Stem** 20 mm long x 15 mm thick, stout, white becoming pinkish near branching, covered with white matted hairs; white aborted (undeveloped) branches present.
- **Spore print** yellow-brown.

**Note** – the white flesh is distinctly gelatinous.

**Habit:** usually in a fairy ring but occasionally solitary.
**Habitat:** on the ground in leaf litter of dry eucalypt forests.
Ramaria versatilis var. latispora
Purple Vinaceous Coral

Fruit-body: large, multi-branched; branches are purple to vinaceous purple with blunt purple tips.

- **Size** to 120 mm tall x 80 mm wide.
- **Branches** 2-5 major branches, stout to 15 mm thick, purple to vinaceous purple to cinnamon (spore cover), axils (branch divisions) rounded.
- **Branch tips** short blunt processes, purple.
- **Stem**, where present, to 30 mm long x 20 mm thick, off-white.
- **Spore print** yellow-brown.

**Note** - flesh at base of stem stains yellowish. The 2-5 thick main branches of *Ramaria versatilis* var. *latispora* differentiate it from the similarly sized and coloured *R. fennica* var. *fumigata* (p 42) which has multiple, thinner branches.

**Habit**: solitary.
**Habitat**: on the ground amongst litter of eucalypt forests.
**Ramaria watlingii**

**Pale Yellow Coral**

**Fruit-body:** large, multi-branched; branches are dark straw-yellow to pale ochraceous, dichotomous branch tips are often at right-angles to one another.

- **Size** to 120 mm tall x 120 mm wide.
- **Branches** numerous, cylindrical to flattened, dark straw-yellow to pale ochraceous, axils (branch divisions) broadly-rounded.
- **Branch tips** bluntly rounded, dichotomous (divided into two) often at right angles, or an obtuse angle, yellow to very pale ochraceous.
- **Stem** to 30 mm long x 15 mm thick, white to yellowish; aborted (undeveloped) branches present.
- **Spore print** yellow-brown.

**Note** - no colour change with bruising. *R watlingii* is distinguished from other similar yellow species by the paired branch tips dividing at right angles to one another.

**Habit:** gregarious.

**Habitat:** amongst litter on disturbed ground by the roadside in dry eucalypt forest (Victoria) or cool temperate rainforest with Eucalypts (Tasmania).
Ramaria zippelii (Phaeoclavulina zippelii)
Blue-tipped Coral

Fruit-body: large, multi-branched; upright branches are buff and the tips occasionally blue tinted. All supported on a tall brownish stem.

- **Size** to 110 mm tall x 60 mm wide.
- **Branches** cylindrical, buff, smooth, axils (branch divisions) round and deeply u-shaped.
- **Branch tips** tapering, rounded, olivaceous buff tinted with a distinct greyish-blue colour extending 5 mm down from tip.
- **Stem** to 45 mm high x 12 mm thick, cylindrical, robust, dark brown (umber), smooth to minutely felty; rhizomorphs absent.
- **Spore print** yellow-brown.

**Habit**: grouped in tufts, also forms rings.
**Habitat**: in ground
Ramaria filicicola (R. gracilis)

Carol Page
Ramariopsis crocea
Delicate Yellow Coral

Fruit Body: small, multi-branched; branches are fine, often antler-like and bright yellow to orange.

- **Size** to 50 mm tall x 20 mm wide.
- **Branches** to 1.5 mm thick, dichotomous (divided into two) becoming ‘antler-like’, yellow to orange, axils (branch divisions) round.
- **Branch tips** rounded, yellow.
- **Stem** to 30 mm x 2 mm thick, golden yellow to orange like the branches, base fluffy with white mycelium.
- **Spore print** white.

*Note* – the jelly *Calocera viscosa* Yellow Staghorn looks similar, but grows on wood, has a waxy texture and is viscid when fresh.

**Habit**: solitary or clustered.
**Habitat**: usually on the ground in moss and litter of native forests but also on Tree-fern stems.
Ramariopsis kunzei
White Coral

Fruit Body: medium, multi-branchied; branches are white, thin, brittle, becoming pink-tinged with age, branch tips are blunt and two-pronged; stem white.

- **Size** to 80 mm tall x 70 mm wide.
- **Branches** to 2 mm thick, dichotomous (divided into two), slightly flattened, white, smooth, brittle and fragile, axils (branch divisions) round.
- **Branch tips** two blunt protrusions – round to pointed, white, ageing yellowish.
- **Stem**, where present, to 10 mm long x 3 mm thick, white, scurfy with flakes and scales; arises from white basal mycelium and some white rhizomorphs.
- **Spore print** white.

**Habit**: solitary, in groups or small clusters.
**Habitat**: on the ground in litter of wet native forests and on *Dicksonia antarctica* Smooth Tree-fern stems.
Ramariopsis pulchella
Small Mauve Coral

Fruit Body: small, multi-branched; branches are thin supported on a thin stem. The whole fruit-body is mauve-purple to deep lavender.

- **Size** to 20 mm tall x 15 mm wide.
- **Branches** to 1 mm thick, dichotomous (divided into two), rich mauve-violet, smooth, axils (branch divisions) deeply rounded.
- **Branch tips** two blunt protrusions, deep mauve.
- **Stem** short, to 15 mm thick, tapering slightly downwards, pale mauve to white at base, bruises brown; arises from a very small, pale mauve mycelial pad.
- **Spore print** white.

**Habit**: solitary or in small groups.
**Habitat**: on the ground in litter of wet native forests.
Ramariopsis ramarioides
Small Red-brown Coral

Fruit-body: small, multi-branched like a tree; branches are stout, brown to rich red-brown, and divide into two.

- **Size** to 50 mm tall x 60 mm thick.
- **Branches** divide repeatedly (to 4 times), upright, dichotomous (divided into two) throughout, flesh-brown to red-brown, axils (branch divisions) round.
- **Branch tips** short, to 5 mm long, awl-shaped (slenderly pointed), concolourous with branches or redder.
- **Stem** to 20 mm tall x 4 mm thick, distinct, tapering downwards, at top concolourous with branches becoming pallid, pinkish tan ageing to chamois at base.
- **Spore print** white.

**Habit:** single or in small groups
**Habitat:** on ground in native forests.
Ramariopsis simplex

Thin Yellow Club

Fruit-body: medium, simple club; club is yellow with an elongated and thin structure which is distinct from the stem.

- **Size** to 70 mm tall x 4 mm thick.
- **Club** often laterally compressed, bright yellow-gold to light orange-yellow, distinct from stem.
- **Club tip** rounded, may be slightly paler than the club.
- **Stem** yellow to ochraceous-yellow; base has a thin covering of appressed white mycelium.
- **Spore print** white.

Note – its size, club shape and stem base distinguishes it from Clavulinopsis amoena (white mycelial pad) (p 22), C. depokensis (very flattened curved branches, tips sharply pointed, brown, white mycelial pad) (p 24) and C. fusiformis (clubs emerge in tight clusters) (p 25).

**Habit:** gregarius to subcaespitose in small groups (up to 4 individuals).
**Habitat:** on ground in native forests.
Clavulinopsis depokensis

Torbjorn von Strokirch

Clavulinopsis fusiformis

Alan Cressler
Tremellodendropsis pusio
Needle-branched Coral

Fruit Body: medium, multi-branched; branches are long, extremely slender, white, pinkish or pale buff with pointed tips, supported on a long, whitish stem.

- **Size** to 70 mm tall x 50 mm wide.
- **Branches** extremely slender, less than 1 mm thick, dichotomous (divided into two), upright, whitish, flesh-pink to pale buff, axils (branch divisions) acute.
- **Branch tips** pointed, whitish to pale buff.
- **Stem** to 11 mm long x 1 mm thick, tough, whitish to pale buff; base arises from a small, white mycelial patch.
- **Spore print** white.

**Note** – stem and lower branches stain brownish.

**Habit:** groups.
**Habitat:** on the ground in native forests.
Tremellodendropsis pusio

Richard Hartland
CORAL FUNGI MYCELIAL FORMS

In the book we note several types of mycelium attached to the stem bases of Coral fungi. The illustrations show some of these forms.
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<td>flattened</td>
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<td><strong>Artomyces</strong></td>
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<td>hanging down</td>
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<td>botrytis</td>
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<td>capitata var. capitata</td>
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<tr>
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<td><em>Tremellodendropsis pusio</em></td>
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BIBLIOGRAPHY


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mycobank.org - articles by species names.
mycoweb.com - articles by species names.
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qldfungi.org.au - articles by species names.
wikipedia.org - articles by species names.

Ramaria ochracea

Torbjorn von Strokirch
Acknowledgements

Great assistance given to us by the photographers who allowed us to use their photographs:
Thanks to Alison Pouliot for retouching photos of the mycelial forms.

Ramaria lorithamnus

Reiner Richter
Clavulinopsis amoena

Ed Grey
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Ramariopsis pulchella

Paul George

Clavaria zollingeri

Carol Page
Ramaria australiana var. australiana

Eileen Laidlaw

Ramaria botrytoides

Torbjorn von Strokirch