

Cortinarius austrovenetus

Cortinarius austrovenetus, alternately known as *Dermocybe austroveneta* and commonly known as the Green Skin-head, and Green Dermocybe is an inedible brightly coloured green gilled fungus which naturally occurs in south eastern Australia.

Initially described as *Cortinarius austrovenetus* by Australian naturalist John Burton Cleland in 1928, this mushroom along with many other members of the group was separated from the huge genus *Cortinarius*, and placed in the newer genus *Dermocybe*, commonly called Skin-heads, derived from the meaning of their scientific names. However, this genus is often treated as a subgenus of *Cortinarius* only.

The fruiting bodies of *Cortinarius austrovenetus* are smooth with a convex or flat cap which can be up to 16 centimetres (6 in) across. The pigment has been isolated and described as Austrovenetin.[2] They have yellowy brown; adnate gills underneath the cap. Like all members of the Cortinariaceae family this mushroom has a thin web-like veil (the cortina) protecting the gills in the early stages of growth. Remnants of this veil may be seen (often quite fleetingly) on the mature stem.



This (above and below) was found in May 2015, on the Rocky Crossing walk Williams River, Barrington Tops National Park, after extensive rain, in the upper drier reaches of the forest. In the photo below, the veil remnants are still visible.

Cortinarius austrovenetus, along with other *Cortinarius* species has been found to have some effect for anti- *Pseudomonas* and anti- *Staphylococcus* activity.





(Above) *Dermocybe austroveneta* Cap 4 to 6 cms; stem 8cms July 1997 viscid when picked, olive green cap, darker in center. Ochre yellow gills, lemon yellow to ochre stem. Solid pale yellow stem, olive green center at cap. In soil, eucalyptus forest, 400 meters altitude, July 1, 1997, Upper Allyn.



(Above) *Dermocybe austroveneta*, July, 1997, viscid when picked, olive green cap, darker in center, ochre yellow gills, lemon yellow to ochre stem. In soil, eucalypt forest Upper Allyn, NSW. 400 metres altitude. Solid pale yellow stem.



(Above) *Dermocybe austroveneta*, Lane Cove National Park, Lorna Pass, Great Northern Walk, Thornleigh, Sydney, New South Wales Australia, August 5, 2006. In sandy soil, solitary but common in leaf litter. Cap 50mm across, 15mm thick, umbonate, vivid olive green. Surface moist peeling easily, smooth, splitting. Margin undulating. Gills adnate, subdistant wide thick, mustard to butter yellow, three different gill lengths. Stipe central, cymindical, centrally hollow, gills easily separates from cap, dry, fibrous, silky sheen. 80mm long, 10mm thick, some rust coloured veil fragments evident. Darler green cuticle, paler flesh lime green. Spore print brown.



(Above) *Dermocybe austroveneta* in soil, Williams River walk near Rocky Crossing, March 2000.



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Spore photo below:

