

# TREMELLACEAE

## TREMELLA Dill. ex Fries

This is a very common genus whose species are usually found growing in the woods during the rainy season. Fruit bodies are usually gelatinous, drying to a horny consistency. Many species are with a lobed and contorted hymenium. Pileus orange, brown, or white in colour, gelatinous, or varying from waxy-gelatinous and sub-fleshy (inside) to soft gelatinous; probasidia globose, oval or pyriform, becoming longitudinally or occasionally irregularly septate, four, rarely two- or three- celled, each cell producing a tubular epibasidium, sometimes notably inflated at tip below the sterigmata; basidiospores hyaline to yellowish or brownish; white, yellow, orange or yellow brown when seen in mass, globose to broadly ovate, sometimes depressed ventrally, rarely sub-allantoid.

**Distribution:** cosmopolitan.

**Practical importance:** most species are parasites on trees, some grow saprophytically on dead branches; few are edible.

## TREMELLA FUCIFORMIS Berkeley

This beautiful dull-white jelly fungus grows on dead and decaying logs or stumps of trees. Fruit bodies foliaceous, the lobes caespitose, repeatedly forked or lobed, or with margin incised or crenate or sometimes entire, crisped, undulate, gelatinous, white, drying to a pale yellow; in section the lobes are usually thin, the hymenium forming a compact, amphigenous surface layer, hyphae  $1-3.5 \mu\text{m}$  in diameter with clamps, sometimes nodose or with the wall irregularly thickened or with thick gelatinous sheaths; probasidia borne on a network of short, broad cells, obovate to oval or subglobose, becoming longitudinally cruciate septate,  $10-18 \times 7-12 \mu\text{m}$ ; epibasidia,  $1.5-3 \mu\text{m}$  in diameter, mostly under  $30 \mu\text{m}$  in length; basidiospores ovate, flattened adaxially,  $7-9 \times 4-6.5 \mu\text{m}$ , germinating by repetition; conidiophores, when present, borne on the same hyphae as the basidia, the conidia forming capitate clusters, oval to subglobose, about  $2-4 \times 2-3 \mu\text{m}$ .

**Distribution:** mostly tropics: reported from Brazil, Chile, Philippines, Singapore, Africa, Australia and North America.