

Lysurus gardneri Berk., 1846

- Description:** Fruiting body consists of a cylindrical stipe topped by a number of short, vertical arms that are joined together at the tips.
- Egg:** White, up to 30 µm diameter, with white rhizomorphs at the base. The egg remnants are seen as a volva at the base of the mature fruiting body's stem.
- Stipe:** Cylindrical, up to 150 mm tall and 20 mm diameter. May be white to pale cream in colour. Hollow. Stipe wall consists of a single row of thin-walled tubes.
- Arms:** 4-6, relatively short and claw-like, firmly united at their tips but rarely may become free with age. The fertile portion of the arm is quite shaggy in appearance and covers the upper part of the arm, leaving the sterile base bare. A narrow, bare groove runs down the centre of the outer surface of each arm.
- Gleba:** Brown to almost black, carried on the inner and side faces of the upper portion of the arms. Smell not unpleasant.
- Spores:** 4-5 x 1.5 µm, cylindric/bacilliform.
- Habitat:** Grows on the ground in damp, shady places.



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- Notes:** Lloyd, in his *Mycological Notes*, was one of the first to confuse *Lysurus gardneri* with *Lysurus cruciatus*, but he wrote later that he had been informed by Professor Petch that the arms of *Lysurus gardneri* are joined at the top and never free. He admitted that his concept of the genus was in error. Other mycologists since, such as Cunningham (1944) and Bottomley (1948) have also confused *Lysurus gardneri* with *Lysurus cruciatus*. Unfortunately, many people who have referred to their material have picked up and perpetuated this error.

Lysurus gardneri can be identified by the fertile surface of its arms being quite shaggy in appearance and covering only the upper portion of the arm, leaving the base bare. The arms are also usually joined together at the top.

L. cruciatus is identified by the fertile surface of its arms being wrinkled and running the entire inner length of the arm. Its arms are usually free at the top.