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## Autumn's fat spiders and fungi: April and May

*AUTUMN. n.s. [autumnus, Lat.] The season of the year between summer and winter, beginning astronomically at the equinox, and ending at the solstice; popularly, autumn comprises August, September, and October.*

Dr Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language* (1766).

Autumn in Sydney is barely there. Few autumn leaves on local plants. No icy winds. No hibernating wildlife. Hardly worth a chapter really, but there is a gap between my long hot summer and the short winter and, consistent with the start of Johnson's definition above, we might as well call it autumn. I should add that in the more southerly parts of southern Australia, and in its highlands and mountains, there are