

egg-shaped body, but before long the business part of the fructification bursts through the cover (or volva) of the 'egg' and the split remains are usually to be found at the base of the fructification. In England a relative of our malodorous discovery was supposed to be good for gout. If any members would like to experiment with our native stinkhorn I'm sure Miss Dingley would be most happy to hear of the results and the editor would be delighted to publish them in the News Letter.

Ed.

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MUTINUS BORNEENSIS

A Native Stinkhorn

(New Record for N.Z.)

Last April while on a week end visit to Whangarei, we were taken for a drive to the summit of Parahaki, the high hill which dominates the town. While walking up the steps to the monument I noticed a strange finger-shaped species of fungus growing on the clay bank. It was about 2½ inches high and tapered to a point, and the apex was covered with what appeared to be a network of brown spores. It aroused my interest because it was new to me, so I collected the specimen and although I searched, no others could be found. Some time later the dried specimen was given to Miss J. Dingley who identified it as Mutinus borneensis, a member of the Phalloid group of the Gasteromycetes. Included in this group are Lattice fungi, crinoline fungi and Aseroe rubra, that bright red evil-smelling fungus which is rather like a sea anemone in appearance. Mutinus borneensis, more commonly known as a Stinkhorn, like the above-mentioned species, emerges from an 'egg'. The split volva was not noticeable in the specimen I collected, possibly it was buried in the clay. The brown top may have been due to the age of the specimen, for a coloured illustration showed the apex to be pink in colour. Mutinus borneensis has been found in the East Indies and Australia, and this specimen from Whangarei was the first recorded from New Zealand. Further specimens would be welcomed by Miss Dingley, so perhaps members could help by keeping a watch for this interesting species.

K. Wood.

