Nothopanex simplex, Archeria racemosa, Phyllocladus alpinus and Dacrophyllum adamsii prevents a comprehensive view from the actual trig position. However to the north, the steep reverting sheep country between Lottin Point and Hick's Bay leads the eye eastwards to Te Araroa with steep hills towards East Cape about 20 miles away.

On the descent is a grand view of the three river valleys; in the foreground Karakatuwhero, in the middle distance Kopoapounamu and furthest south the Taurangakautuku could be traced heading northwards to join the Awatera.

The sheep country at the head of these rivers is extensively eroding as also are the ridges leading up to the Raukumara Range at 4,404 feet and about ten miles south west of Pukeamaru.

On April 25th last Mr. Colin Peach of Tokomaru Bay and the writer revisited Pukeamaru. The crimson drupes of Alseuosmia, the wine-coloured drupe of Coprosma colensoi, the orange drupes of Coprosma foetidissima, C. robusta and C. lucida added colour to the forest. One tree of Dacrydium intermedium had steel blue 'nuts' encased in red arils. These arils are fleshy in character forming a wide cup-like structure a quarter of an inch in diameter and adding colour to the interesting yellow-silver pine. The seed requires damp humus to germinate and good drainage, together with shade and protection from strong winds - indeed such a situation as rock crevices provide.

(Our thanks to Mr. Cresswell for an informative account of a very interesting trip. I am sure that any of our members who happen to be holidaying in that direction during the summer will take care, if they can possibly manage it, to pause for some happy hunting on Pukeamaru. Ed.

Congratulations to that indefatigable collector Mrs. Wood on a very interesting find. Mrs. Wood has already made quite a number of records of plants not previously noted in certain localities. But the present discovery concerns not only a district but the whole country. It must be admitted that the plant is not the most aesthetic of our fungi. But at least it is harmless, living peacefully as a saprophyte, that is to say deriving its nourishment from the leaf mould of the forest floor. The fungus consists of a tangled network of fungal threads or 'hyphae' as botanists call them, which live below the ground. The 'horn' that rises above ground is simply the fructification of the plant emerging, as does the mushroom, to produce and scatter its spores. Unlike the mushroom however, it is not palatable - at least I have never heard of it being served as a side dish - its odour for one thing is not encouraging. It appears first in the form of an

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.

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 noticable 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.



Fructification of Mutinus borneensis
(Life size)