

Paruwhatitiri - Basket Fungus

Meet the stinkhorn fungi family

Fungi that we see above the ground are the fruit bodies that act as the launching pads for spore distribution.

The basket fungus is often seen here in May /June.

A scrunched up ball emerges from an egg shaped capsule. It is covered in thick smelly green/brown insect attracting mucus containing spores. As it dries the fungus becomes ball shaped and gets blown by the wind spreading more spores. Maori referred to these baskets as the “droppings of ghosts”.

Mushrooms and Toadstools Mobil NZ Nature series



Emerging basket fungus



Dried basket fungus



Flower Fungus

Another of the stinkhorn family, the Flower Fungus, found at Whareroa in the bush at the top of the Link Track.