

Itajahya galericulata Möller, 1895

Description: A phallic-shaped stinkhorn with a white stem and cap. On top of the cap is a white ruffle or pom-pom like structure.

It is 90-150 mm tall when fresh.

Egg: Described as large and greyish-white in colour.

Stipe: White, smooth and sponge-like in appearance, due to the walls consisting of many small chambers. Cylindrical in shape, tapering at both the base and the top. Hollow.

Cap: Has a “wig-like” appearance and often appears black after the gleba is gone. Remnants of the volva sometimes remain attached to the cap.

At the top of the cap is a “fluffy”, white structure called the calyptra. It is comprised of fine, white, lamellate plates.



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Gleba: Greenish-brown in colour. The odour is strong, but not stinking. It was said by Alfred Möller to be like “yeast dough”.

Spores: On average, they are 4 x 2 µm, smooth and hyaline. The spores from the Queensland (Bowra) specimen were larger at 4.5 x 3 µm.

Habitat: In Australia - dry mulga country with an annual rainfall of <500 mm.

Notes: This fungus was first described by Alfred Möller from Brazil in 1895. It is rarely recorded, but has been found in Bolivia, New Mexico, Arizona, South Africa and central Australia (N.T. & S.A.), where it has not been identified since 1983. The generic name derives from the Itajahy River, in the region of Brazil where it was originally discovered.