

# Stinkhorn Fungi



## What's that smell?

Can you see the fungi?  
These varieties of stinkhorn fungi are responsible for the strong smell like decay or rotting food in this area. The fungi perform an important job of breaking down the mulch into soil. The smell is used to attract flies to spread the spores.



## *Phallus indusiatus* - Crinoline Stinkhorn, Bridal veil fungus

**FAMILY** - Phallaceae  
**Species** - *Phallus indusiatus*  
(syn. *Dictyophora*)  
**Colour** - Stem usually white, brown cap  
**Habitat** - Found in rainforests in leaf litter, garden mulch  
**Description** - The common name of this species is based on the 'net' or 'indusium', which is attached below the enlarged conical head. The net varies in length, usually white but may be yellow or orange. Has fetid smell which attracts flies.



## *Phallus rubicundus* - Stinkhorn

**FAMILY** - Phallaceae  
**Species** - *Phallus rubicundus*  
**Colour** - Stem red to orange, dark cap  
**Habitat** - Occurs singly or in clumps in humus or decaying wood.  
**Description** - This stinkhorn fungus is usually first detected by its strong fetid smell which attracts flies. The stem is red to orange, its surface resembling a net. The head is dark brown initially, then fades as spores are shed.