

## **NEW GENUS OF TRUFFLE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.**

*Amarrendia*, a new genus of truffle, closely related to *Amanita* and *Torrendia*, has been discovered during studies of fungi on rehabilitated bauxite mines in Western Australia.

Many mushrooms have truffle relatives and *Amarrendia* appears to be the long sought truffle relative of *Amanita* that gives a phylogenetic link between *Amanita*, *Torrendia* (truffle on a stem) and *Amarrendia*.

The discoverer, Dr Neale Bougher, Senior Research Scientist at CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products (and SFSGI member of many years), and colleague Dr Teresa Lebel of Melbourne's Royal Botanic Garden, have since described five new species of *Amarrendia* and are presently studying molecular sequence data to gain further evidence of the phylogenetic relationships linking the proposed evolutionary series.

The specimens of *Amarrendia* found so far are white and have a size range from that of a small marble to a reasonably large kiwifruit. As all specimens have been included in scientific collections edibility has not yet been determined and Dr Bougher advises against trying them until the matter is resolved. These species are currently being analysed for toxins.

The related references are:

Bougher, N. L. and Tommerup, I. C. (2000). Nature's ground force. *Biologist*, **47**:19-23.

Bougher, N. L. and Lebel, T. (2002). Australasian sequestrate (truffle-like) fungi. XII.

*Amarrendia* gen.nov.: an astipitate, sequestrate relative of *Torrendia* and *Amanita* (Amanitaceae) from Australia. *Australian Systematic Botany*, **15**, 513-525.