

273951

ABC 2616

FC.

4670/AB

4669

51-36

Catalogue No.

ENT

Accession No.

Field Catalogue No.

Negative No.

Sub. Ind. No.

General Provenience:

Polynesia

New Zealand

Where collected:

Tribe:

Where made:

People: Maori

Attribution:

Culture:

Brief description: 3 Vegetable caterpillars (Awhato) or (Aweto)Detailed description: Vegetable caterpillars (Cordiceps robertsii).

Used by the Maori for tattooing pigment. "The caterpillar, burrowing in the vegetable soil gets a spore of fungus between the folds of its neck; and, unable to free itself, the insect's body nourishes the fungus which vegetates ^{See reverse}

DIMENSIONS (in cm.):

length:

height:

diameter:

width:

circumference:

Fuller Collection: Purchased from Captain A. W. F. Fuller of London, England, in 1958
 Sent either to or from a Mr. Alexander Hood from Auckland
 on Nov. 11, 1891.

and occasions the death of the caterpillar by exactly filling the interior of the body with its roots, always preserving its perfect form. The stem grows up like a little bulrush, six to ten inches in height; after being dried, it is burnt into a coal giving an excellent black pigment." This quote is from H. G. Robley, Moko; or Maori Tattooing, London, 1896, p. 57. The envelope containing 4670/AB has the following written on the outside: "The Bulrush Caterpillar - New Zealand Sent me by Mister /?/ Christmas, 1891 being a plant which takes possession of the body of an insect which it makes the foundation from which it uses its stem & the source from which it derives its support - This plant always exactlyfills the body of the Caterpillar & has a stem from 6 to 10 inches high - (Sphoensia Robertsia) Native name (Aweto) Sent from Auckland. Nov. 11 / 1891 Alexander Ailand Hood".

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