

Boletus edulis



(Photo: © Michael Wood)

Boletus edulis Fries

Syst. Mycol. 1: 392. 1821.

Common Name: **Porcini, Cepe, King Bolete**

- **Pileus**

Cap 7-25 cm broad, broadly convex; surface smooth to wrinkled, dry to subviscid in wet weather; color varying from yellow-brown, buff-brown to reddish-brown; flesh thick, white, unchanging; odor and taste mild.

- **Hymenophore**

Pores very small, pallid, becoming dull yellow, finally dingy yellowish-green.

- **Stipe**

Stipe 7-20 cm long, 3-8 cm thick, equal to clavate, white at the base, brownish above; white reticulations especially at the apex; veil absent.

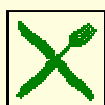
- **Spores**

Spores 12-17 x 4-6 μm , smooth, fusiform to elliptical. Spore print olive-brown.

- **Habitat**

In the San Francisco Bay Area, *Boletus edulis* is associated primarily with pine, particularly *Pinus muricata* (Bishop Pine), and *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pine). It fruits sporadically during the spring and summer months (in the latter case from fog drip), with significant fruitings occurring after the first soaking rains of autumn.

- **Edibility**



Edible and choice. Buttons are usually prepared fresh while large specimens are typically dried. Like many members of the bolete group, fruiting bodies of *Boletus edulis* are frequently colonized with fly larva making it difficult sometimes to find edible specimens.

- **Comments**

Boletus edulis is distinguished from other members of the bolete group by a combination of characters: substantial size, a smooth to wrinkled brown to reddish-brown cap surface, drab white pores becoming yellowish olive in age, a usually club-shape stipe with distinctive white reticulations at the apex, mild taste, and absence of color changes. A close relative is [*Boletus aereus*](#) which differs in having a darker cap with a whitish wash when young, and occurs with mixed hardwoods as opposed to pines.

- **Other Descriptions and Photos**

- Taylor F. Lockwood: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (CP)
- Taylor F. Lockwood: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (CP)
- Taylor F. Lockwood: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (CP)
- Fred Stevens: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (CP)
- Fred Stevens: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (CP)
- Nathan Wilson: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (CP)
- Michael Wood: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (CP) [High Res Photo](#)
- Michael Wood: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (CP) [High Res Photo](#)
- Michael Wood: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (CP)
- Michael Wood: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (CP) -- ready to cook
- Michael Wood: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (CP) -- double bolete!

- **Boletes of California:** [*Boletus edulis*](#) (D & CP)
- **Beverly Hackett:** [*Boletus edulis*](#) (I)
- **Beverly Hackett:** [*Boletus edulis*](#) (I)
- Tom Volk's Fungus of the Month: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (D & CP)
- Boleslaw Kuznik -- Hunting for Mushrooms: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (CP)
- A Few Good Mushrooms: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (D & CP)
- Eileen's Mushroom Mania: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (CP)
- Nathan Wilson: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (D & CP)
- Il Mondo dei Funghi: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (D & CP)
- Na Grzyby: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (D & CP)
- Informationszentrale gegen Vergiftungen der Universiteat Bonn: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (D & CP)
- Sommario funghi: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (D & CP)
- Svampbok: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (D & CP)
- Robert Rich: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (D & CP)
- Pilze, Pilze, Pilze: [*Boletus edulis*](#) (CP)
- Arora (1986): p. 530, plates 142-144 (CP)
- Arora (1991): p. 152-158 (D & CP)
- Bessette *et al.* (2000): p. 108 (D), p. 290-291 (CP)
- Breitenbach & Kränzlin (vol. 3): p.54 (D), plate 8 (CP)
- Fischer & Bessette: p. 95-97 (D), p. 95 (CP)
- Jordan: p. 337 (D & CP)
- Lincoff: p. 568 (D), plate 405
- McKenny *et al.*: p. 4 (D), p. 5 (CP)
- Miller: sp. 307 (D & CP)
- Phillips: p. 233 (D), p. 232-233 (CP)
- Smith & Weber: sp. 81 (D & CP)
- Thiers (1975): p. 33-35 (D)

(D=Description; I=Illustration; P=Photo; CP=Color Photo)

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