

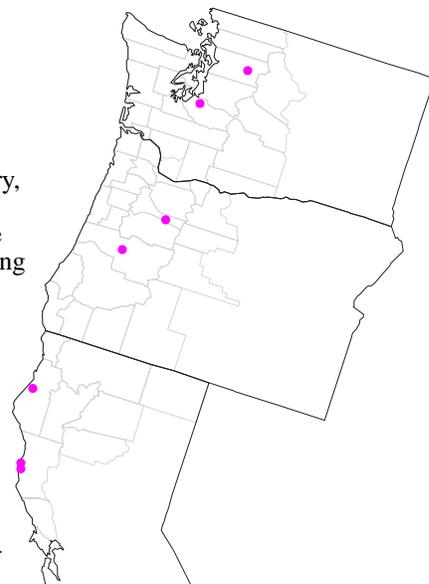
Boletus pulcherrimus Thiers & Halling

ROD name *Boletus pulcherrimus*

Family Boletaceae

Morphological Habit Bolete

Description: CAP 80-200 mm diam, convex to broadly convex; surface dry, glabrous to subtomentose, when very old often becoming rimose-areolate to fibrillose-scaly; red-brown overall. **CONTEXT** bright yellow, changing to blue upon exposure. **ODOR AND TASTE** mild. **TUBES** 5-15 mm long, yellow, changing to blue upon exposure. **TUBE MOUTHS** dark red to red-brown throughout development, bluing where bruised. **STEM** 70-160 x 20-50 mm, clavate to clavate-bulbous (but not abruptly bulbous), dry, upper two-thirds distinctly reticulate, pale red brown overall with darker red reticulations, bluing where bruised. **PILEIPELLIS** composed of tangled repent hyphae with pale ochraceous, roughened walls. **HYMENIUM** amyloid. **BASIDIA** 1-4 spored. **CYSTIDIA** 33-60 x 8-12 μm , subclavate to fusoid-ventricose, hyaline. **SPORES** subellipsoid to subfusoid, 13-16 x 5.5-6.5 μm , smooth, brown spore print.



Distinguishing Features: Characterized by the combination of the red-brown cap, a bright yellow cap flesh that stains blue, tube mouths that are dark red when young and remain so in age, a clavate, pale red-brown stem with dark red pronounced reticulations and a distinctly amyloid hymenium.

Distribution: Endemic to the Pacific Northwest. Known from 45 collections, 8 from Washington (3 sites), three from Oregon (2 sites), and 34 from northern California (5 sites). Thirty-five collections were from only 3 sites; **CALIFORNIA**, Humboldt Co., Freshwater State Forest; Mendocino Co., Jackson State Forest; **OREGON**, Lane Co., Spencer Butte; Lane Co., Willamette National Forest, Santiam River; **WASHINGTON**, Pierce Co., Mount Rainier National Park, lower Tahoma Creek. In Washington, *Boletus pulcherrimus* is also known from 1 site on the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Snohomish Co. *Boletus pulcherrimus* has been collected numerous times near the type locality.

Substrate and habitat: Sporocarps are usually solitary, never in groups, in humus in association with the roots of mixed conifers (*Abies grandis*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and hardwoods (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*) in coastal forests.

Season: Fruits from July through December.

References: SMITH, A. H., AND THIERS, H. D. 1971. The Boletes of Michigan. University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor. 428 p. THIERS, H. D. 1975. California Mushrooms: a Field Guide to the Boletes. Hafner Press, London. 261 p.



Photo courtesy of D. Arora