

Boletus leptospermi



Boletus leptospermi © Pat Leonard

Common name: Manuka Bolete

Pileus: convex to plano convex; 40 – 80 mm diameter; subtomentose at first but becoming glabrous/shiny when mature; reddish brown, mahogany or date brown (9D6, 9E6), colours often streaked; margin often retracting.

Stipe: cylindrical or clavate; 30 – 50 × 10 – 20 mm; glabrous or faintly velutinate, fibrous at apex; yellow brown, with red tints, base sometimes completely red.

Pores: adnate or slightly excavated around the stipe; pale yellow becoming golden at maturity; bluing where bruised; pores ovoid to angular, 1 to 2 per mm.

Flesh: pale lemon yellow, bluing rapidly on exposure to air.

Spores: olive brown; fusiform; 7.9 – 13 × 3.7 – 5.1 μm , average $9.4 \pm 1.4 \times 4.3 \pm 0.5$ μm , $Q = 1.81 - 2.71$, average $Q = 2.18 \pm 0.25$; smooth.

Pileipellis: structure confused, a trichoderm in places and when young, closer to a cutis in older specimens; some terminal hyphae are inflated

Habitat: in New Zealand it is found singly or in small groups under *Leptospermum*, also reported by McNabb from mixed forests containing *Leptospermum*. The Western Australian collection was found among the beach vegetation on a sand plain.

Collections: UWA 1079, between Geraldton and Perth, 8 miles east of Jurien Bay, Western Australia, G. Keighey, 11 Jul 1973. PL12110. Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes National Park, Pat Leonard, 29 Jan 2010.

Notes: UWA 1709 agrees with the illustration by McNabb (1968) but there are several outstanding differences, especially the narrower basidiospores 2.5 -3.5 μm as opposed to 4 - 5 μm and rather more complex pileipellis. The pale colours of the spores and tubes give a slight suggestion of *Tylopilus*. Unfortunately, field data are not available and a more definitive treatment cannot be made. Watling thought the WA collection was distinct from McNabb's and this author agrees. A bolete with a dark reddish brown, mahogany or date-brown pileus with narrow basidiospores should be looked for again in maritime communities in Western Australia.