

Boletellus obscurecoccineus



Boletellus obscurecoccineus © Pat Leonard

Cap: convex then plano-convex; 40–70 mm diameter; rose-red to red throughout with tinge of carmine (11A8); smooth or minutely subtomentose or suede-like but then broken-up into small patches which darken to purplish chestnut with age.

Stipe: cylindrical, narrowed about centre; 70–85 × 6–10 mm (10–11 mm at base), bright yellow at apex and with a few yellowish punctae there, dotted carmine red on rose background at centre, gradually bright magenta or carmine red, fibrillose streaky downward with whitish or buff base.

Pores: lemon-yellow throughout, apparently unchanging; angular.

Flesh: pale yellowish in pileus, pinkish buff under cuticle, chrome-yellow in stipe apex, paler downwards to white base.

Spores: subfusoid (boletoid) slightly flattened in side view; 16–18 × 5.5–6 µm, very faintly longitudinally striate, not cross-striate.

Pleurocystidia: present, although sparse, hyaline, narrowly lageniform with long, tapering and flexuous neck 33 × 8–8.5 µm with obtuse apex, 3 µm wide.

Pileipellis: an intricate trichoderm of smooth, flexuous, intertwined hyphae 5.5–10 µm broad, with slightly swollen, rounded, end-cells.

Habitat: in mixed eucalypt and wet sclerophyll forest.

Notes: It is separated from the other bright red species by its smooth cap and stipe and unchanging chrome yellow flesh. *B. obscurecoccineus* was originally described from Java and was mistakenly confused with European members of the *Boletus rubellus* group, to which there is a very strong superficial resemblance. Records of that fungus in Australia are probably *B. obscurecoccineus*.

Collections examined: PL 37607, Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden, Pat Leonard, 11 Jun 2007; PL30523, Lake Cooroiba, Great Sandy N.P. Fran Guard, 20 May 2023.

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