

Boletellus fennicus, a new species from Finland

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The new species *Boletellus fennicus* Harmaja (Boletales) is described. The species is known from several localities in southern Finland. It has been misidentified as *Xerocomus* (*Boletus*) *rubellus* (Krombh.) Quél. in Finland. Recently the species was, likewise erroneously, thought to represent *Boletellus ripariellus* (Reedeuilh) Reedeuilh described from France.

Key words: *Boletellus*, Finland, taxonomy, *Xerocomus*

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The well-known small red bolete that had passed as *Xerocomus* (or *Boletus*) *rubellus* (Krombh.) Quél. in Finland was recently identified by me (Harmaja 1998) as *Boletellus ripariellus* (Reedeuilh) Reedeuilh, described from France (Reedeuilh 1997a, 1997b). However, my identification was not made without some hesitation. Now that Dr. Mauri Korhonen of Botanical Museum (Helsinki) has informed me about his discussions on this case with Dr. Guy Reedeuilh (France), and I also have re-evaluated some characters, it is clear that the Finnish material is not conspecific with *B. ripariellus*. As this Finnish bolete is not conspecific with any other existing species, either, it is herewith described as a new species, *Boletellus fennicus* Harmaja.

B. fennicus is very closely related to *B. ripariellus*, differing from the latter especially in the following respects: (1) the cracking of the pileus cuticle is somewhat different (irregularly areolate vs. predominantly radiate), (2) the stipe context is yellowish throughout, (3) the spore apex is specialized (“truncate”), (4) the striation of the spore surface is different (according to communication of Dr. Reedeuilh), (5) the habitat ecology may differ as *B. fennicus* occurs under *Betula* (and often

also *Alnus*) while *B. ripariellus* has been found associated with *Quercus* and *Salix*, and (6) *B. fennicus* apparently possesses a more northern distribution area.

A description of the characters and habitat, illustrations and a list of representative specimens examined of *B. fennicus*, as well as discussion were published in Harmaja (1998, as *B. ripariellus*). For the time being, the species is known from Finland only. It may prove to have a predominantly north-eastern distribution in Europe.

Boletellus fennicus Harmaja, n. sp.

Illustrations: Harmaja 1998: Figs. 1–4

Boletelli riparielli valde similis sed ab ea praecipue differt carne stipitis omnino flavida sporisque truncatis cum striis dissimilibus. Sporae 10.0–15.0 × 4.0–6.0 μm.

Holotypus: Finland. Etelä-Häme. Lammi: Pappilankylä, Biological station of the University of Helsinki, old park, in lawn under e.g. *Betula pendula*, 9.IX.1968 Harri Harmaja (H).

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