

Preliminary Key to Boletes of Santa Cruz County, CA

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1. Flesh or pores clearly staining bluish when cut or bruised (sometimes slowly or only dull or dark blue)...2
1' Not clearly bluing when cut or bruised on any part of the fruitbody...13
2. Upper portion of stipe clearly reticulated (with a fishnet pattern, often paler or darker than the rest of the stipe surface), this pattern sometimes formed by pore tissue stretching down over the stipe apex... 3
2' Upper stipe not clearly reticulate, but may have fine dots, scales or punctations...7
3. Pores red to reddish orange, stipe huge and bulbous (often wider than cap), cap whitish gray when young, becoming dull brownish to olive brown, often with pinkish blotches... *B. eastwoodiae*
3' Not as above, pores and/or cap differently colored, stipe not immensely bulbous...4
4. Cap bright yellow to yellow OR distinctly pinkish to rosy red...5
4' Cap dull brown to yellowy brown or cinnamon brown, at most slightly reddish brown (especially near edge of cap)...6
5. Cap yellow, with an overhanging flap of tissue at the edge, pores yellow to dull orangey brown in age, often in clusters with cobwebby yellowish mycelium at base of stipe... *B. orovillus*
5' Cap pink to rosy reddish, pores and stipe yellow, stipe robust, under hardwoods... *B. regius*
6. Stipe whitish, very often with yellow mycelium at the base, reticulum at apex of stipe yellow and often very prominent; stipe whitish, often relatively slender, cap dry, velvety, dull brown to yellowy brown... *B. subtomentosus*
6' Stipe yellow, robust; pore mouths small, cap cinnamon brown to yellowy brown, sometimes with faint reddish tones near margin... *B. appendiculatus*
7. Pores red to orangey-red or orange-brown...8
7' Pores pale yellow to yellow to dull orangey yellow...9
8. Fruitbody large, bulky, stipe often swollen, fruitbody overall dark red, cap sometimes fading to dull tan-brown or olive brown with reddish tones, with oak...*B. amygdalinus*
8' Fruitbody small and slender, cap yellowish brown to cinnamon brown, stipe reddish with yellow mycelium at base, pores bruising bluish, growing with pine, taste peppery... *Chalciporus piperatoides*
9. Cap pale whitish or pale olive brown beneath a thick white bloom, pores staining blue strongly, stipe yellowish or pale, swollen at base and often slightly rooting, taste distinctly bitter, fruiting with hardwoods, mostly in late summer and early fall...*B. "marshii"*
9' Not as above, differently colored or not strongly bitter...10
10. Cap EITHER bright reddish to brick red to reddish brown OR deep purple-red (sometimes appearing black) to wine red, often with a paler pinkish-red band around edge of cap...11
10' Cap dull, pale brown to medium brown or olive brown, cap velvety and dry...12
11. Cap reddish, frb medium sized to very large, stipe whitish, covered in grayish or black scales, pore surface whitish to pale creamy tan, pores staining brown, flesh (esp. in lower stipe) staining bluish, under madrone or manzanita...*Leccinum manzanitae*
11' Cap deep purplish red to nearly black, surface often wrinkled, pores pale lemon yellow, often bluing slowly, stipe entirely red or yellow densely overlaid with red scales, overall appearance "tricolored"...*B. zelleri*
12. Cap surface velvety, with distinctly cracked appearance, often with pinkish flesh in between the cracks, pores dull yellow, often bruising blue weakly, stipe slender, mostly yellowish, reddish

- coloration mostly over lower stipe, spores with rounded ends, (compare to v. similar *B. truncatus*, below)...*B. chrysenteron*
 12' Cap surface velvety, cracks often restricted to edge of cap, pores dull yellow to dingy yellow orange, stipe often strongly reddish, especially near apex of stipe, cap coloration often darker brown than the very similar *B. chrysenteron*, (above), spores truncate (squared-off) at one end...*B. truncatus*
13. Upper stipe distinctly reticulate (with a fishnet pattern)...14
 13' Upper stipe NOT clearly reticulate...19
14. Cap yellow to pale straw yellow, margin with overhanging flap of tissue, pores yellow and staining blue, becoming dingy orangey-brown and not staining blue, frb often in clusters in woodchips, base of stipe often with cobwebby yellow mycelium...*B. orovillus*
 14' Not as above...15
15. Pores bright lemon yellow, almost appearing fluorescent, fruitbody often fairly small or slender stemmed...16
 15' Pores white to cream to yellow or in age olive brown, greenish-yellow, or dark reddish brown...17
16. Cap very dark brown to reddish-brown, fibrous-scaly to velvety, dry, stipe somewhat bulbous and flesh-colored to tan (often bright yellow at apex), fruitbody fairly small, with hardwood...*B. citriniporus*
 16' Cap orangey-brown to reddish-brown and often appearing streaky or splotchy, cap very viscid (although often drying out and then appearing smooth and shiny), stipe slender, often curved or sinuous; fruiting with pines, fairly common...*B. flaviporus*
17. Cap whitish to dull beige, occasionally with areas of darker tan or pale brownish, pores white when young, becoming yellowish-tan and finally greenish yellow, with live oak...*B. barowsii*
 17' Cap orangey-brown to reddish brown or very dark brown...18
18. Cap very dark brown to reddish brown, wrinkled, often with patches of whitish bloom in wrinkles, entirely covered in whitish bloom when young, frb robust and firm, pores greenish-yellow in age, under hardwoods, esp. oak and tanoak...*B. regineus*
 18' Cap whitish when very young or buried in duff, more commonly orange-brown or in age to reddish-brown; frb robust and often v. large, pores white, becoming creamy yellow, yellow, and eventually olive brown or reddish brown; often with pine, but also with oak...*B. edulis* var. *grandedulis*
19. Stipe yellow with distinct reddish tones or scales (sometimes appearing entirely red)...20
 19' Stipe pale tan or flesh colored, often with yellow area at the apex...*B. citriniporus*
20. Pores orange-red to red, cap pale reddish to yellowish brown, pores staining brownish when scratched, stipe with yellow mycelium at base, frb small, taste peppery; fruiting with pines...*Chalciporus piperatus*
21. Cap either pink or dark purplish red to grayish-purple... 22
 21' Cap velvety, distinctly cracked, dull brown, stipe predominantly yellow, covered in small reddish scales or with reddish areas, especially near the base of the stipe...*B. chrysenteron*
22. Cap distinctly rosy pink and minutely velvety, pores yellow and not staining blue. Stipe yellow to tan, not reticulate... *B. coccyginus*
 22' Cap very dark grayish purple to purplish red or wine colored with a pinkish edge, pores pale yellow, stipe usually entirely reddish, sometimes yellowish densely overlaid with red dots and scales...*B. zelleri*