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Fungus of the Month - November 2006



Boletellus ananiceps

Boletellus ananiceps, the shaggy-capped bolete, has a large robust mushroom-like fruit body up to 15 cm diameter. It is easily recognised by the conspicuously shaggy covering on the pale tan coloured cap and yellow pores that stain blue when bruised or damaged. If the cap is damaged or cut, the flesh also stains blue when exposed to air.

The shaggy-capped bolete can fruit at any time of the year. Generally it is found in early autumn. However, it can also fruit following rain in the summer, when the mushrooms can be found extending from the underside of logs or from the base of stumps. The shaggy-capped bolete is common in all eucalypt forest and woodlands in the southwest. A good place to find them is at Rate's Lookout at Walpole in May.

The large specimen (inset above) was found in tuart forest near Busselton in November.

The Latin name: what it means: *Bolet-* superior kind of mushroom; *ananas-* pineapple; *ceps-* head.