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Boletellus ananiceps — shaggy capped bolete

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Boletellus ananiceps, or shaggy-capped bolete, is found throughout southern and eastern Australia in eucalypt forest and woodlands. Boletes are a group of mushroom-like fungi that have pores under the cap instead of gills. It can fruit at any time of the year. Generally, however, it is found in early autumn but 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.

Caps can be up to 15cm diameter, pale tan with conspicuous shaggy scales and a ragged skirt-like margin. Under the cap are bright yellow to dirty yellow pores that stain blue when bruised or damaged. Stems are up to 15cm tall, robust, creamy to pale tan, sometimes with a red stain-like blush. If either the cap or stem is damaged or sliced, the exposed flesh, like the pores, also stain blue.

In the south west, a good place and time to find them is at Rate's Lookout near Walpole in May. The large older specimen (*inset above*) was found in tuart forest near Busselton in November.

The scientific name refers to its shaggy appearance. *Bolet-* ancient word for superior kind of mushroom; *ananas-* pineapple; *cep-* head.