

THE BOLETI OF KASHMIR: BOLETUS AND XEROCOMUS

RIAZ ALI GARDEZI, MUHAMMAD FAREED KHAN
AND ZULIFQAR ALI SHAH

University College of Agriculture, Rawalakot-12350 (AJ&K) Pakistan.

ABSTRACT

Members of the family Boletaceae belonging to genera *Boletus* and *Xeroconomus* are described. These are *Boletus albidus*, *B. edulis*, *B. calopus*, *B. luridus*, *B. appendiculatus*, *B. pruinatus*, *Xeroconomus tomentosus*, and *X. chrysenteron*. Among them *B. edulis*, *B. appendiculatus* and *B. pruinatus* are edible. *B. albidus*, *X. subtomentosus*, *X. chrysenteron* are edible but these are tasteless. *B. luridus* causes intestinal illness in the individuals having allergy and *B. calopus* is not recommended for culinary purposes.

INTRODUCTION

Few investigations have been carried out on the family Boletaceae of the order Agaricales from mixed wood forests of the village Hullar and Lohar Bela south east of Bagh Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Dick and Snell (1965) described three new species, two sub species and new combinations of boletes from U.S.A. Smith and Thiers (1971) recognized eleven genera in the single family Boletaceae. Nicholson and Brightman (1974) reported that about fifty species of the boletes have been recorded in Britain. Singer (1975) placed alike specimens in two families Boletaceae and Strobilomyces which contain a eighteen genera.

Halling (1983) documented location and quantity of original specimens of boletes described by C. C. Frost, listed six known types, 19 additional ones are designated as well as clarified concept of two species and proposed a new combination. Wolf (1983) studied boletes of the genus *Tylopilus* along with their microscopic anatomy and microchemistry. New data concerning these types are also presented. Gardezi (1986) described four species of Boletaceae from Kashmir. Khan and Sheikh (1991) studied fifty different species of fleshy fungi from Changa Manga forest of Punjab.

Forests are situated at an altitude from 1500 to 2200 m. The dominant plant association is the *Quercus* sp. however, pines and deciduous trees are also present in the patches. These forests are damaged badly by the cattle and goats, but now, these are proclaimed a natural preserve. Decaying foliage forms a thick layer on the soil (pH.