

THE BOLETE'S HISTORY: AS A WORD AND AS A MUSHROOM

Greeks and Romans : the first written account

*Theophrastus (370-287): 4 species including the *mykés* which refers to mushroom with a cap and a stalk, but no bolete; fungi = an imperfect plant

*Dioscorides (40-90): folklore at his best

*The Romans; boletus is a common word:

Martial (40-104):

ARGENTUM ATQUE AURUM FACILEST LAENAMQUE TOGAMQUE
MITTERE; BOLETOS MITTERE DIFFICILEST

(Martial, *Epigrams*, Book XIII, 48)

Seneca (4-65) (*Natural Questions*) and Pliny The Elder (23-79) (*Natural History*): boletus' description:

Martial: The assassination of Claudius emperor:

Tell me, what madness is this? While a whole crowd of invited guests is looking on, you alone, Caecilianus, devour the truffles (boletos). What shall I imprecate on you worthy of so large a stomach and throat? That you may eat a truffle (boletum) as Claudius ate.

(Martial, *Epigrams*, Book I, 20)

*In recipe : Apicius (25-37), *De re coquinaria*, Book VII, 15-16

*An another Roman fungi: the suillus

« Sunt tibi boleti: fungos ego sumo suillos»

(Martial, *Epigrams*, Livre III, 60)

* The linguistic evidence : the Italian porcini; the Napolitain silli; the porchin-potiron is some regions of France

* The specialists, (Antoine Laurent Apollinaire Fée (XIX^e siècle), Jacques André, Giacomo Lazzari) are positive: the suillus is a bolete.

From Renaissance to the Age of Enlightenment:

The Renaissance:

*According to Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) : a major obstacle (*Fragments pour un dictionnaire des termes d'usage en botanique*, 1780-1789): science is forced to follow classical authors.

*The preservation of the roman tradition in terminology and the written description are far away from the people : the latin used only by the literate people all over Europe:

Pier Andrea Cesalpin (1519-1613), *De plantis*, 1583, Book VII

*The first document dealing specifically with the mushrooms, but with poor illustrations : Carolus Clusius (1526-1609), *Fungorum in pannoniis observatorum brevis historia*, 1601: a rudimentary classification: edible and toxic using number for identification unconclusive illustration of the bolete

*Latinization of the naming : Gaspard Bauhin (1560-1624): *Pinax theatri botanici...* 1623 (1596); *Enumeratio plantarum ab herboriis...* 1620:

Gaspard Bauhin: genus and species are not the same

*Finally, it looks like a bolete: Jean Bauhin (1542-1612): *Universalis plantarum historiae*, 1650-1651

- featuring the name and paying more attention to the popular designation
 an incomprehensible classification, but away from the «edible and toxic» dichotomy
- *A clear and logical classification using the fungi's morphology : John Ray (1627-1705) *Historia plantarum*, 1682.
 - *Boletus became a morel, a new designation: Joseph Pitton de Tournefort (1656-1708), *Institutiones rei herbariae*, 1700 (1694)
 - * The founder of mycology: Pier Antonio Micheli (1679-1737), *Nova plantarum genera junta tournafortii methodum disposita* 1729
 two kinds of tubes fungi: suillus and polyporus
 - *The word and the mushroom are finally reunified: Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778), *Systema naturae per regna tria naturae...* 1735
 boletus are all tubes fungi
 the binominal nomenclature is generalized
 but mycology is still a part of botany

A new modern and universal era

- *The Age of Enlightenment : breaking the tight grip of science or bringing science closer to people
- *Pierre Bulliard (1742-1793) named some bolete (King, Peppery, Bitter, Red-Cracked...); one of the first color illustration of the bolete: *Herbier de la France*, 1780; *Histoire des champignons de la France*, 1791-1792
 Mycology is separated from botany
 Now the mushrooms are having two names : popular and scientific
 Micheli revisited: making a difference between the bracket and the tubes fungi
- *Elias Fries (1794-1878), *Observationes mycologicae*, 1815-1818
- *Names are now universal : Boletus edulis (Bull ex Fries) as an example in Russian and in Vietnamese

Seneca, *Natural questions*

They greedily swallow down hot mushrooms (boletos) dipped in their own envelope and almost smoking (tome I, Book IV, xiii-10)

Pliny The Elder, *Natural History*

The earth, in fact, first produces the uterus or receptacle for the mushroom, and then the mushroom within, like the yolk in the egg. Nor is this envelope less conducive to the nutrition of the young mushroom. Bursting from the envelope at the moment of its first appearance, as it gradually increases it becomes transformed into a substantial stalk. (Book XXII, 46)

Martial, *Epigrams*

Why is not the same dinner given to me as to you? Before you are placed splendid mushrooms (boleti); I help myself to such as are fit for pigs (suillos) (Book III, 60)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Fragments pour un dictionnaire des termes d'usage en botanique*

À la renaissance des lettres tout disparut pour faire place aux anciens livres; il n'y eut plus rien de bon et de vrai que ce qui étoit dans Aristote et dans Galien. Au lieu d'étudier les plantes sur la terre, on ne les étudioit plus que dans Pline et Dioscoride, et il n'y a rien de si fréquent que d'y voir nier l'existence d'une plante par l'unique raison que Dioscoride n'en a pas parlé. (p. 463)