

Bovista paludosa Lév.*Description*

This is a medium-sized puffball (1.5–4.0 cm). The basidiomata are pear-shaped when young, with a pure white and almost smooth exterior. They darken with age to become yellowish-brown to copper brown with a yellowish-brown powdery spore mass. A sterile and cottony subgleba is evident in a cross-section. The spores are dispersed through a small pore at the top of the basidioma. Spores are globose, finely verrucose, and provided with a pedicel that is 8–13 μm long. The capillitium is thick-walled, up to 12 μm in diameter, dichotomously branched with tapering, acute ends. *Bovista paludosa* is a readily identified species. *Lycoperdon caudatum* is a potential candidate of confusion but differs in having a distinctly spiny peridium.

Habitat, phenology, potential range

Bovista paludosa is a widespread species in Europe. It is characteristic of alkaline and neutral fens, bogs, mires and wet meadows.



Fig. 5. *Bovista paludosa* (photo Mikael Jeppson).