



***Boletus luridellus* (Murr.) Murrill y *Quercus fusiformis* Small: cultivo, síntesis de micorrizas y producción de esporomas en invernadero**

***Boletus luridellus* (Murr.) Murrill and *Quercus fusiformis* Small: pure culture, synthesis of mycorrhizas and sporocarp production in nursery**

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Resumen

Se presenta el primer registro de *Boletus luridellus* (Boletaceae, Boletineae) para los estados de Nuevo León y Tamaulipas, México. Se identificó la especie y se obtuvieron cultivos puros *in vitro*, se midió el crecimiento en dos medios de cultivo, se obtuvo la síntesis de micorrizas en plántulas de *Quercus fusiformis* y se registró por primera vez la producción de esporomas de esta especie en condiciones de invernadero. En las entidades citadas, *B. luridellus* forma ectomicorrizas con *Quercus fusiformis*, *Q. polymorpha* y *Q. canbyi*, porque tiene potencial para producción de plántulas inoculadas de encino en vivero o invernadero, en el noreste de México, donde se utilizan frecuentemente para arborizar áreas urbanas, parques y nuevos fraccionamientos. Dicha simbiosis es de interés porque ocurre en una zona geográfica donde las temperaturas son altas durante el verano y el hongo puede inducir resistencia a sequía y mejorar crecimiento de las plantas. Se ha comprobado que *Boletus luridellus* crece bien en campo y produce esporomas cada año en los jardines del campus de la Facultad de Ciencias Forestales en Linares, Nuevo León, además se cita como comestible en la literatura especializada.

Palabras clave: Boletaceae, *Boletus luridellus* (Murr.) Murrill, cultivo puro, producción de frutos, síntesis de micorrizas, *Quercus fusiformis* Small.

Abstract

This study documents the first register of *Boletus luridellus* (family Boletaceae) in the states of Nuevo León and Tamaulipas. Pure cultures were obtained *in vitro*; synthesis of mycorrhizae was achieved with *Quercus fusiformis*, and fruiting bodies were produced under greenhouse conditions for the first time. This species forms mycorrhizae with *Quercus fusiformis*, *Q. polymorpha* and *Q. canbyi*, in its natural environment. This species has a good potential for inoculation of oak seedlings in order to obtain better seedling growth under greenhouse conditions in northeastern Mexico, where oaks are currently planted in urban gardens, parks and new urban developments. This symbiosis is interesting because it occurs in a dry geographic zone where temperatures are high during the summer. *Boletus luridellus* is reported to be an edible species that grows well and produces sporocarps on a yearly basis (another experiment) in the gardens of the School of Forest Science in Linares, Nuevo León.

Key words: Boletaceae, *Boletus luridellus* (Murr.) Murrill, pure culture, sporocarps production, synthesis of mycorrhizae, *Quercus fusiformis* Small.

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Introduction

The mushrooms of the family Boletaceae have ecological and economic importance; they are fleshy and form mycorrhizae with various plant species —particularly with those of Ericaceae, Fagaceae, Pinaceae, Dipterocarpaceae, and Caryophyllaceae—, and a few of these mushroom species are saprobes (Arora, 1986, 2008; Tedersoo *et al.*, 2010; Sitta and Davoli, 2012; Dentinger and Suz, 2014; Álvarez *et al.*, 2017).

These macromycetes have been widely studied, using methods from the classical and molecular taxonomy in different regions of the world (Smith and Thiers, 1971; Corner, 1972; Both 1993; Bessette *et al.*, 2000; Muñoz, 2005; Kuo, 2013).

The collection and trade of certain species such as *Boletus edulis* Bull., *B. aereus* Bull. and *B. pinophilus* Pilát & Demerek are important sources of income both, for the collectors and for the processing companies of several countries, including the United States of America, Canada, Mexico, Spain, Italy, Portugal and France (Villarreal *et al.*, 1995; Águeda *et al.*, 2006, Garza *et al.*, 2009; Agreda *et al.*, 2010; Garza *et al.*, 2011).

Several diversity studies have been conducted in Mexico on Boletaceae taxa (García, 1999), and there are records of 212 species which belong to 27 genera ascribed to the Boletaceae, Gyroporaceae, Suillaceae, Paxillaceae, Gyrodontaceae and Boletinellaceae families. The diversity of species of this group across the country is greater if it is taken into account the new molecular studies, as well as the large variety of ecological, climate, soil type, vegetation and altitude conditions existing in the national territory (García and Garza, 2000). However, studies on the obtainment of cultures or on the inoculation of oak or pine seedlings with Boletaceae taxa are scarce.

The present study documents the first record of *Boletus luridellus* (Murr.) Murril in the states of *Nuevo León* and *Tamaulipas*, in association with *Quercus fusiformis* Small., *Q. polymorpha* Schltdl. et Cham. and *Q. canbyi* Trel. Furthermore, a pure *in vitro* culture was obtained, along with the first synthesis of its mycorrhiza with *Quercus fusiformis* and the production of sporomes under nursery conditions.

Materials and Methods

Sporocarp collection

Boletus luridellus species were collected from various localities of the states of *Nuevo León* and *Tamaulipas* and examined for the herbarium; their morphological and ecological data and their color in fresh state were recorded (Maerz and Paul, 1930). The microscopic analysis of the material was conducted using a Primo Star Carl Zeiss compound microscope with an ocular micrometer, KOH (5 %) and Melzer's solution. The identification of the material was based on the studies by Singer (1986), García (1999), and Bessette *et al.* (2000; 2016).

***In vitro* culture**

The strains were isolated in a laminar flux bell; small pieces of tissue of the context of young sporomes were removed using fine sterile tweezers and opened longitudinally with a sterile scalpel. They were placed on several lines on Melin-Nokrans solid culture medium with a pH of 6.5 in Petri dishes (Garza *et al.*, 2014). The dishes were incubated at 25 °C in the darkness.

Having isolated the four strains in a pure culture, an experiment was conducted in order to measure the radial growth on a daily basis, during one month, *in vitro* in the Melin-Norkrans culture media and Malt Extract Agar. Ten replications were utilized for each strain and culture medium (a total of 80); pH was adjusted to 6.5, and growth was measured in orthogonal lines marked at the base of the Petri dishes.

A variance analysis (ANOVA) and a mean comparison test ($p \leq 0.05$) were made using the SPSS statistical software package, 2.0 version, in order to assess the significant differences in the relationship between the media and the strains.

Production of mycorrhizal inoculum

The four strains were used individually in the mycorrhization of oak seedlings; inoculant was produced from each of these, in 500 mL wide-mouth jars, with vermiculite and peat moss (proportional volume 4:1), moisturized (to 70 %) with a modified Melin-Norkrans liquid culture medium (Garza et al., 2014). The jars with the substrate were sterilized at 120 °C during 40 minutes; they were then left to cool and were later individually inoculated with fresh mycelium obtained from the Petri dishes with Melin-Norkrans solid medium.

The jars were incubated during five weeks at 25 °C, in the dark, and shaken on a weekly basis in order to accelerate the colonization process of the substrate.

Germination of *Quercus fusiformis* seeds

The acorns were obtained from trees previously established in the gardens of the *Facultad de Ciencia Forestales de la Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, UANL* (School of Forest Science of the Autonomous University of Nuevo León). They were superficially sterilized with H₂O₂ at 30 % during 15 minutes; they were subsequently washed with sterile distilled water in three 15-minute cycles in order to eliminate the excess peroxide. The germination was carried out in Petri dishes, in water with 1.6 % agar, placed in the dark in a Shellab™ LI20 incubator at 25 °C during one week.

Inoculant substrate mix

The inoculant substrate in each strain consisted of a mixture of 50 % inoculant washed with sterile distilled water and 50 % sterile vermicompost soil. The sterile acorns which germinated during one week were placed upside down, half buried in the substrate in groups of 10 in each 250 mL styrofoam container cup, adding up to a total of 100 cups and 1000 acorns. 25 container cups (250 seedlings) were inoculated with each strain; the bottom of each cup was pierced at four points using a sterile scalpel in order to favor drainage. The cups were then placed in

a nursery during six months (November to April) at an average temperature of 26 °C and relative humidity of 60 %.

Mycorrhization percentage

The percentage of mycorrhizae in the root system of the plants was determined through random sampling of 10 container cups, *i.e.* 100 seedlings per strain (adding up to a total of 400). The complete root systems were drawn from the cups and washed in the laboratory with distilled water in order to eliminate all residues of soil particles. The tips of the roots with mycorrhizae were counted using a Zeiss Stemi 2000C stereomicroscope. Their morphology was observed under a Primo Star Carl Zeiss microscope; fine cross-cuts were made in order to observe the Hartig network and measure the fungal mantle (Brundrett *et al.*, 1996).

Results and Discussion

Taxonomic description

Boletus luridellus (Murr.) Murrill Mycologia 30:525. 1938.

Synonymy

Ceriomyces luridellus Murr. Mycologia 30: 523.1938.

Ceriomyces subsensibilis Murr. Mycologia 31: 111. 1939.

Boletus subsensibilis Murr., Mycologia 31: 112. 1939.

Convex pileus with a 36 to 105 mm diameter and a smooth, viscid to partly tomentous surface of an orange to reddish brown (6E8 - 7E8 K. & W.) or yellowish brown hue (5D7 - E7) (Maerz and Paul, 1930), and with slightly appendiculate margins.

Subattached hymenophore with 5 – 12 mm long tubes, of an olive yellow color, stained blue when exposed; angular, with pores of a 0.3 - 0.7 mm diameter, of a 3C8 yellow color, stained blue when exposed.

75 - 110 × 13 - 29 mm subcylindrical stipe with an acute base and a strongly reticulated surface, except in the lower third, where it is smooth or slightly pruinose, of a 4B6 K. & B. yellow color (Maerz and Paul, 1930) in its upper part,

and reddish purple, reddish brown or copper red at its base; the reticulation is concolored with the surface of the stipe; it stains blue rapidly when touched.

Context 1.2-2.0 cm thick, yellow, stains blue rapidly when exposed, with a slightly acidic or sweet fruity odor and taste, according to the ripeness of the specimens.

The KOH on the pileus reacts producing a reddish brown color, with an orange hue in the context and surface of the stipe, and with orange brown pores. The NH₄OH on the pileus produces a dark brown color, with a somewhat ochre-like color, dark olive brown pores and orange to olive-colored stipe.

Spores sized (11.2-) 12 - 15 (-19) × 4 - 5.6 (-6.4) μm , ellipsoid to fusoid, smooth, some with a subacute apex or inversely attached; some with a thick wall of up to 1 - 1.2 μm , of an olive brown color in KOH, and orange brown in Melzer's solution. Olive brown spore print.

Basidia sized 20 - 32 × 8 - 12.8 μm , hyaline in KOH, and with a granular content in Melzer's solution. Pleurocystidia sized 26 - 48 × 8 - 10 μm , fusoid-ventricose, with medium-sized necks and a subacute apex, hyaline or yellowish in KOH and in Melzer's solution.

Cheilocystidia sized 32 - 40 × 7.2 - 9 μm , fusoid to somewhat ventricose, with a subacute apex, of a pale yellowish hue in KOH and in Melzer's solution.

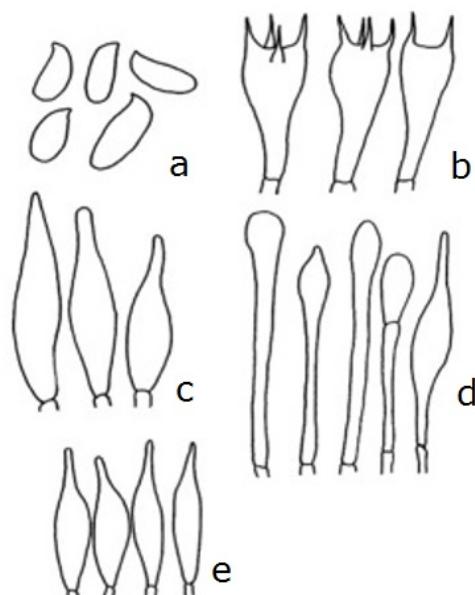
Bilateral trama of the tubes, with a middle layer of somewhat gelatinized hyphae and a lateral layer of tubular hyphae, both with hyaline cells in KOH and in Melzer's solution, and with a 3.5 - 6 μm diameter.

Epicutis formed by a trichoderm of interwoven hyphae, with terminal elements of cylindrical, claviform or cystidioid hyphae, most of them with a rounded apex, sized 36 - 77 × 6.4 - 11.2 μm , with a few short, intermingled subglobous to claviform elements, sized 26 - 32 × 10.4 - 13 μm , hyaline or of a pale yellow color in KOH and orange in Melzer's solution.

Stipe surface formed by a layer of cystidioid subglobous cells, some of them of a sphaerocyst type, claviform or fusoid-ventricose, hyaline or of a pale yellow color in KOH and in Melzer's solution, and sized 20 - 36 × 5.6 - 12.8 μm . Some tetrasterigmate caulobasidia, sized 20 - 26.5 × 7.2 - 12 μm and hyaline to pale yellow in KOH and Melzer's solution, are also present.

Habitat

Solitary to subgregarious in *Quercus* forests, particularly beneath *Quercus fusiformis*, *Q. polymorpha* and *Q. canbyi*, at altitudes of 300 to 1 600 m (Figure 1).



Scale 10m μ .

a= Spores; b = Basidia; c = Cystidia; d = Pleurocystidia; e = Cheilocystidia.

Figure 1. Microscopy of *Boletus luridellus* (Murr.) Murrill.

Geographic distribution

The species is distributed from North Carolina and Florida to southern Texas. In Mexico, it is known in *Nuevo León* and *Tamaulipas*, and possibly in other northeastern states as well (Figure 2).

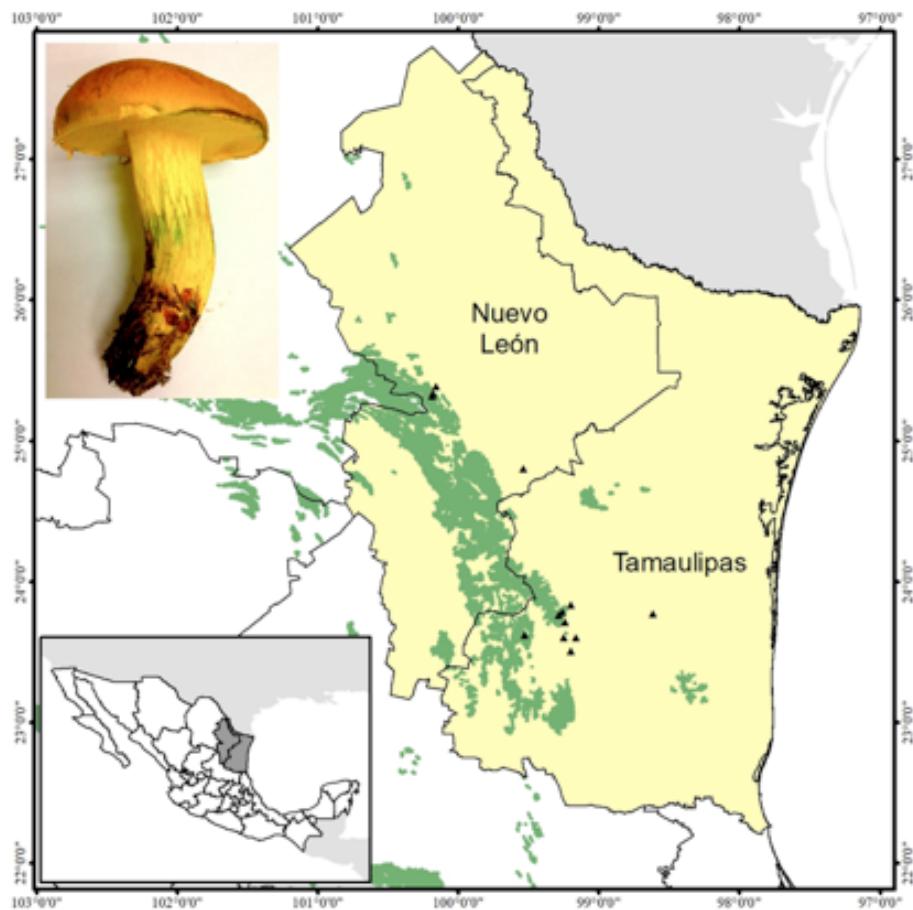


Figure 2. Known distribution of *Boletus luridellus* (Murr.) Murrill in the states of Nuevo León and Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Edibility

Boletus luridellus is edible, according to Metzler and Metzler (1992) and Bessette *et al.* (2016). There is no history of consumption of this or other Boletaceae species of the northeastern region of Mexico.

Examined material

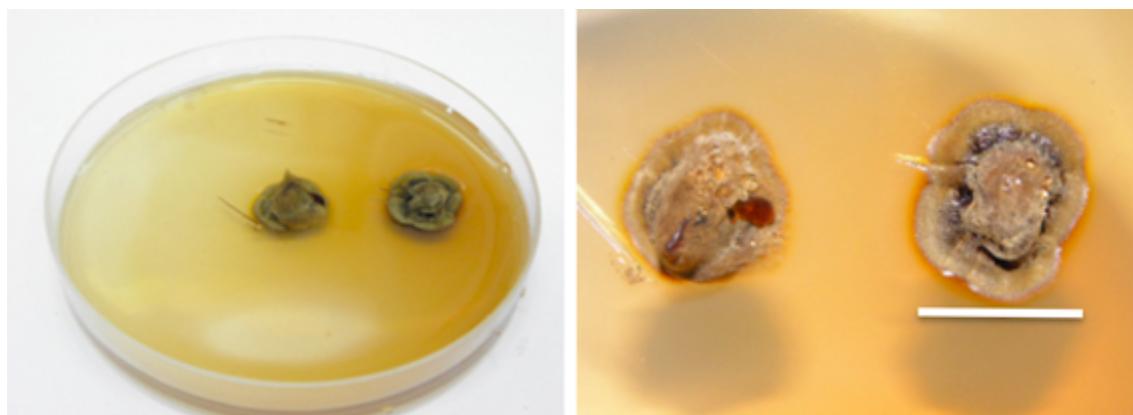
Nuevo León: Linares municipality, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Facultad de Ciencias Forestales. 15-X-2011, 10-X-2012; 12-X-2014; 15-10-2016; 9-X-2017. Garza 3900, 4025, 4189, 4230, 4600(CFNL). *Nuevo León*: Santiago municipality, El Ranchito, 14-IX-1979, García 59 (UNL, ITCV) El Cercado, 10-X-1984, A. Moreno s/n (ITCV), Puerto Genovevo, 14-X-1979, García 63 and Marmolejo 30 (UNL, ITCV). *Tamaulipas*: Victoria municipality, Cañón de La Libertad, 14-IX-1991, García 7405 (ITCV); the same

municipality, km 155 of the *Tula - Cd. Victoria* road, *Altas Cumbres ejido*, 15-IX-1991, García 7433; *Las Mulas ejido*, 13-IX-2008, García 17,468 (ITCV). *Casas* municipality, km 80 of the *Cd. Victoria-Soto La Marina* road, 1-VII-1993, García 8530, 1-X-1993; García 8751, 6-X-1993; García 8796, 27-VI-1994; García 8949 and 8951, 24-V-1997; García 10,580 and 10,586 (all at the *Instituto Tecnológico de Ciudad Victoria* (Technological Institute of Ciudad Victoria), ITCV. *Victoria* municipality, 30-VIII-1998, García 11050 and 11053 (ITCV); road from *Huizachal* to *Puerto Arrazolo*, 29-VIII-1998, García 11002 (ITCV). *Victoria* municipality, *Cañón del Novillo*, 21-X-1992, García 8280 (ITCV); *Jaumave* municipality, near *Rancho La Reja*, 8-IX-1994, García and Martínez Ávalos 9028-D.

***In vitro* growth**

Multiple mean test for differences among strains

The results of the ANOVA show that there are significant differences in the effect of the strain*medium interaction with a model F value $F= 482.78$, and significance values below ($P<0.05$.) with $F=81.05$ for the effect of the strain*medium interaction. Tukey's test evidenced that the treatment of strain 4 with the Melin-Norkrans medium was the best, as it exhibited the greatest growth of the *Boletus luridellus* colony (Figure 3). Table 1 shows the results of the analysis of the test of between-subjects effects.



Scale 2 cm.

Figure 3. Pure *in vitro* culture of *Boletus luridellus* (Murr.) Murrill in Melin-Norkrans medium at 15 days.

Table 1. Test of between-subjects effects.

Source	Type III Sum of squares	Degrees of freedom	Average of squares	F value	Sig.
Corrected model	44.807 ^a	7	6.401	482.587	0.000
Interception	935.028	1	935.028	70 494.267	0.000
Medium	21.945	1	21.945	1 654.502	0.000
Strains	19.636	3	6.545	493.480	0.000
Mean * Strains	3.225	3	1.075	81.057	0.000
Error	0.955	72	0.013		
Total	980.790	80			
Corrected total	45.762	79			

$$^aR^2 = 0.979; \text{ adjusted } R^2 = 0.977.$$

The results for growth in a pure *in vitro* culture prove that the four strains grow better in the Melin medium than in Malt Extract. The monthly average growth of strains 4, 1, 3 and 2 in the Melin-Norkrans medium was 3.9 cm, while the average monthly growth observed in Malt Extract was 2.8 cm. Strain 4 had a higher growth in both culture media, and strains 2 and 3 registered the lowest values in the Melin-Norkrans medium and in Malt Extract, respectively. The growth rate differed significantly between the four strains and in the two culture media utilized (Figure 4).



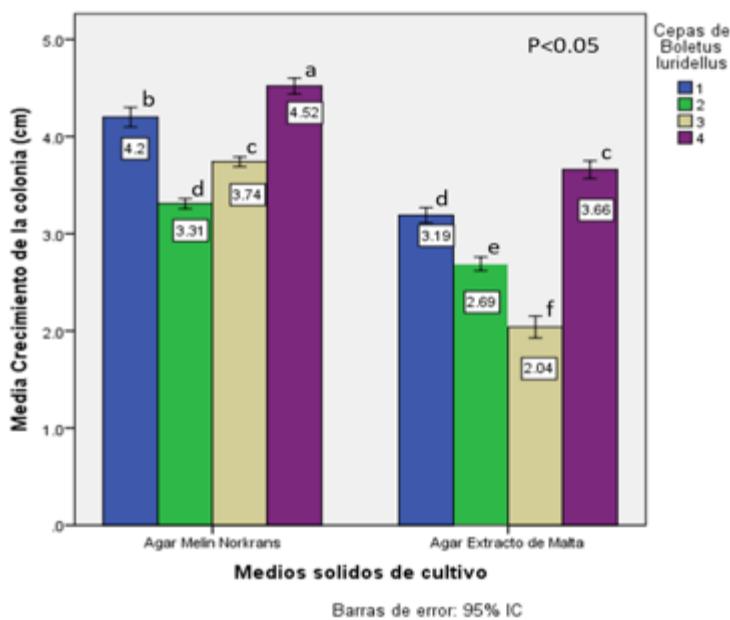


Figure 4. Average growth (cm) *in vitro* of the four *Boletus luridellus* (Murr.) Murrill strains.

Description of the strains

Mycelium growth *in vitro* was observed to be somewhat shiny, of a brown color and releasing a dark brown pigment around the colony, while the agar adopts a pale ochre hue in the Melin-Norkrans medium (Figure 3). The colony has a semicircular growth, mainly on the surface on top of the agar, although it also exhibits this growth into the medium; however, the mycelium does not penetrate all the way to the base of the dish. The superficial mycelium in the colony is compact and tight at the center of the colony, and lax or loose in its most aerial part.

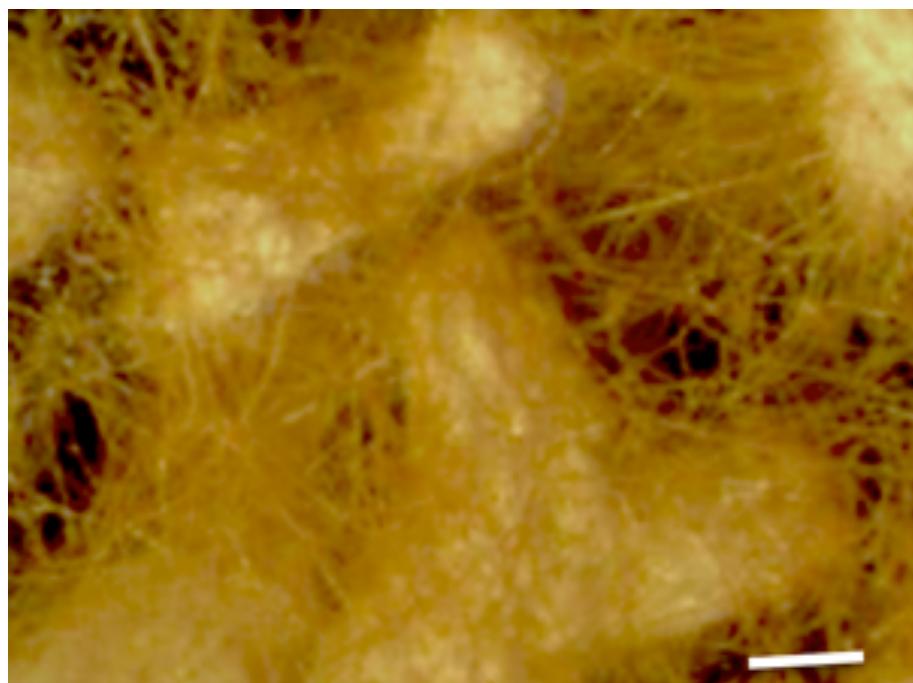
The colony has a light ochre color at its margins, while its center is darker, with dark brown droplets; the agar takes on a light ochre hue at the edges of the colony. The hyphae have a diameter of 2 - 3.5 μm ; they are hyaline in a 10 % KOH solution, and yellow in Melzer's reagent; they are smooth and branched, septated, with sparse fibulae; the walls of the hyphae are thin, barely 1 μm thick.

Production of fruits and ectomycorrhizae

Sporomes were produced in 75 % of the containers. The mycorrhizae are shiny and brown, monopodial and branched; they exhibit a well developed fungal mantle of a brown color and a thickness of 120 μm ; the mantle has compact hyphae with no emerging cells and is dextrinoid in Melzer's reagent. Development of the Hartig network was observed.

Colonization

The average percentage of mycorrhization in the root system was 75-100 %. Formation of mycorrhizae in 25 % of the tips of the root and the presence of a scarcely developed fungal mantle were observed (figures 5 and 6).



Scale 1 mm

Figure 5. Branched mycorrhizae and mycelium of *Boletus luridellus* (Murr.) Murrill and *Quercus fusiformis* Small.



Figure 6. Production of *Boletus luridellus*(Murr.) Murrill sporomes in *Quercus fusiformis* Small seedlings inoculated in a nursery at six months of the inoculation.

Boletus luridellus grows by associating with *Quercus virginiana*, *Q. fusiformis* and *Quercus polymorpha* in *Nuevo León* and *Tamaulipas*. it is likely that it may be associated to other species of oaks of the northeast region of the country. In the United States of America, it occurs in North Carolina, southern Florida and western Texas (Bessette *et al.*, 2016).

The oak species mentioned above have been planted in many urban and suburban areas in *Nuevo León* and *Tamaulipas* and they also exist in commercial nurseries in the citrus producing area of the state of *Nuevo León*.

This macromycete is mycorrhizal, and its presence in Texas has been cited by Metzler and Metzler (1992) and by Bessette *et al.* (2016), according to whom it is edible and has an exquisite flavor. *Boletus luridellus* does not involve any toxicity issues, unlike the *Scleroderma texense* Berk. S. Pers. strain, which grows in gardens, squares, and recreational centers in urban and suburban areas of *Nuevo León*, where various species of oaks have been planted.

The fungal material collected in *Nuevo León* has a slightly acidic taste in young specimens, and a somewhat sweet taste in mature specimens. It is edible, and only young individuals that are free of insect larvae are recommended for

consumption. Abundant sporomes weighing 1.5 to 2 kg per tree are produced in inoculated trees growing in gardens. The inoculation procedures would have positive repercussions in order to reforest with preinoculated seedlings that may later produce edible sporomes of the selected species.

Cistus ladanifer L. (gum rockrose or labdanum) seedlings are inoculated *in vitro* in Spain; these belong to the family Cystaceae and are obtained from the culture of tissues with *Boletus edulis*, of which experimental plantations have already been made quite successfully in terms of the production of sporomes (Agueda et al., 2006; Mediavilla et al., 2016).

Boletus luridellus was registered for the first time in Mexico by García (1999), and this study documents the first record for Nuevo León.

There are no previous differences for the species in regard to their culture. The obtained strains produce a colony of dark brown mycelia and dye the agar dark brown beneath the colony in both media; these results are similar to those obtained for *Boletus luridus* Schaeff. (Iotti et al., 2005). This dyeing characteristic also occurs in other macromycete cultures obtained by the first author, such as *Suillus lakei* (Murr.) A.H. Sm. & Thiers and *Suillus granulatus* (L.) Russell or *Exsudoporus frostii* (J.L. Russell) Vizzini, Simonini & Gelardi, besides other species like *Pisolithus arhizus* (Scop) Rasuchert. Díaz et al. (2009) studied certain species of Boletaceae *in vitro* and succeeded in producing small primordia, although they did not conduct experiments at a nursery to produce sporomes. Pantidou (1961, 1962) obtained them thus *in vitro* from the saprobe fungus *Phlebopus sulphureus* (Quél.) Singer and from *P. lignicola* (Kallenb.) M. M. Moser ex Groves. Chung et al. (2010) inoculated *Pinus radiata* D. Don seedlings with *Boletus edulis* Bull. and *B. pinicola* (Vittad.). In Chile, Vassilkov, C. R. determined that the mycorrhizae persisted in the field after 24 months, and that these seedlings had better growth responses than those that were not inoculated.



Conclusions

Several strains of *Boletus luridellus* were obtained in a pure culture and were reproduced in order to inoculate *Quercus fusiformis* seedlings. The inoculated plants produced sporomes in containers under nursery conditions. This is the first study carried out with this approach for *Boletus luridellus*, and it documents its first register in *Nuevo León*, Mexico.

Conflict of interests

No conflict of interests is considered to exist, since the results of this study are original, and they have not been submitted to any other journal. The photographic material used in this publication is original and was taken by the main author.

Contribution by author

Fortunato Garza Ocañas: field detection of the species and development of seedling identification, culture and inoculation; Jesús García Jiménez: field collections and supply of herbarium specimens; Miroslava Quiñónez Martínez, Gonzalo Guevara Guerrero and Ricardo Valenzuela Garza: review of specimens and structuring of the manuscript; Artemio Carrillo Parra: support with financial resources for the purchase of cultures, measurement of the strains at the laboratory; Laura Rosa Margarita Sánchez Castillo, Horacio Villalón Mendoza and Mario García Aranda: data capture and analysis, elaboration of the map and drafting and review of the manuscript.

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