Scientific Name: ***Phaeolus schweinitzii***
Other Name: ***Polyporus hispidoides***
Common Names: **Decay know as "red-brown butt rot"; Cow pile fungus**

Common Hosts: Conifers-common on larch, pine and spruce, but also found on other genera. Seldom on deciduous trees.

Habit:
- Base of live trees or on buried roots close to the base;
- Also on trunks

Fruiting Time of Year:
- Late summer through the Fall

Fruiting (Hymenial) Surface
- Small pores and gray-brown or darker

Type of Decay
- Brown, cubical root and butt rot

Mode of Action
- Root and butt rot that may lead to whole stem or root failure

Frequency
- Common

Tree Health Symptoms
- Often none, other than the appearance of the fruiting bodies. However, some conks may be associated with obvious wounds or trees may be declining. *P. schweinitizii* will also fruit on dead trees.

Edibility/Medicinal
- None known

Identifying Features *(see photos)*

Importance:
May be cause for immediate removal. At a minimum the tree should be assessed for decay. This is one of the most common root, butt and trunk decay fungi of conifers in urban areas. Decay associated with P. schweinitizii may be seen to substantial heights up the main stem of a tree.

Notes:
This fungus is common on white pine, larch and other conifers. I have seen trees with fruiting bodies, few other indicators of decay, and with health canopies, that were extensively decayed by P. schweinitizii. It may fruit near from the roots of trees that do not have other outward appearing symptoms of decay. Decay assessment on roots and/or trunks is a good idea when this fungus is known to be present.

Phaeolus schweinitzii

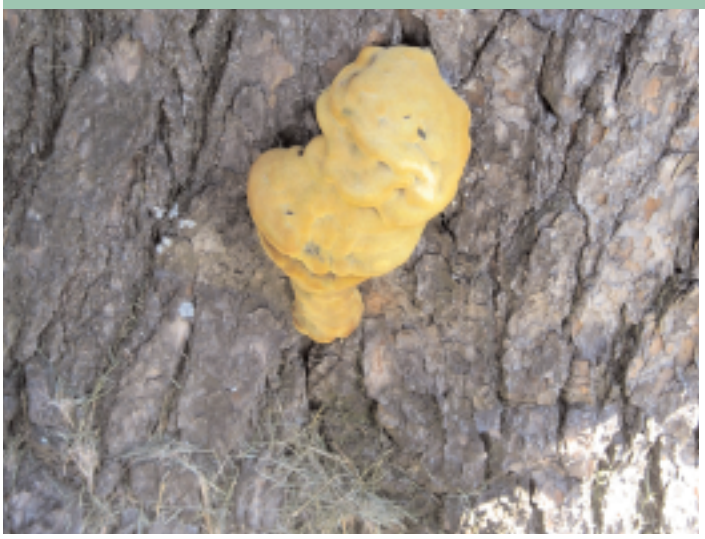

Photo 1. Habit of *P. schweinitzii* in the early stage of fruiting body development on white pine. (NY, Sept.)

Photo 2. Habit of *P. schweinitzii* from photo 1 later in the stage of development on white pine. (NY, Sept.)

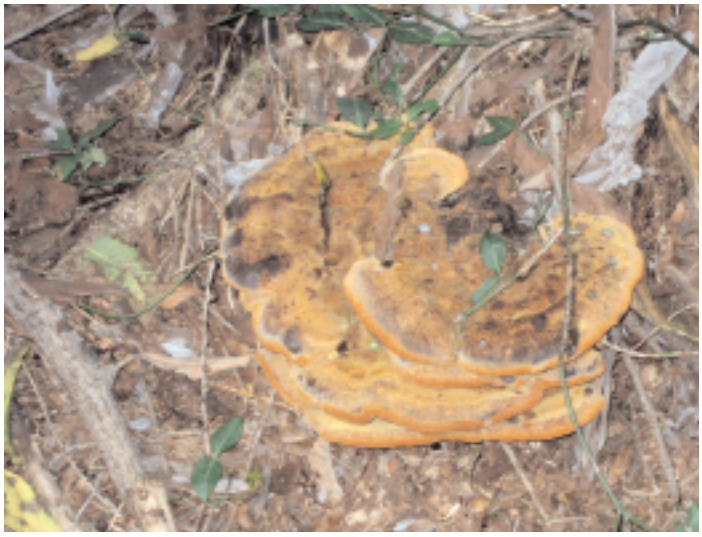

Photo 3. Habit of *P. schweinitzii* on the ground attached to a Scots pine root. (NY, Sept.)

Photo 4. View of the context and bruised pore layer from a fruiting body on white pine. (NY, Sept.)

Photo 5. Close-up of pore layer with angular pores that have been bruised by touching. (Sept. NY)

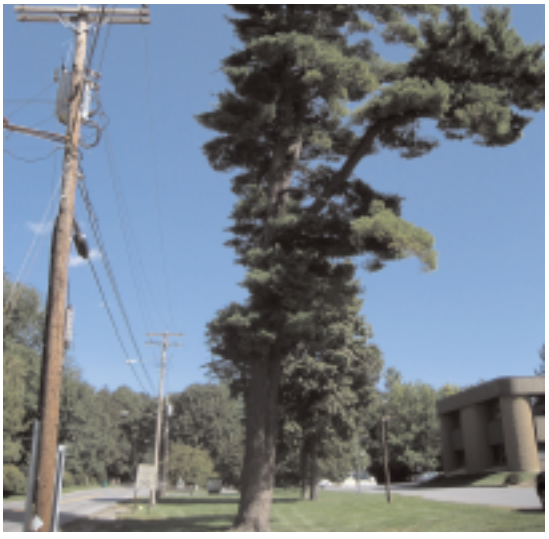

Photo 6. A large white pine with a *P. schweinitzii* conk at the base. Sounding the tree with a hammer indicated it was extensively decayed despite its healthy appearing crown.