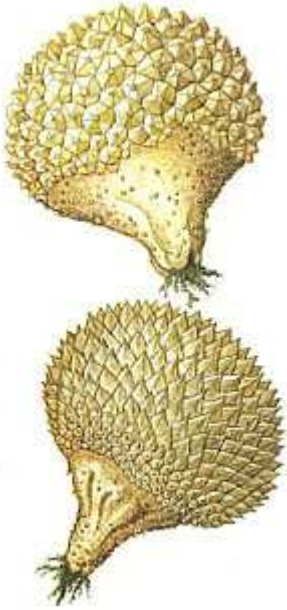


## Lycoperdon mixtecorum - Bovista

- Lycoperdaceae - Temperate zones of Mexico

---



PUFFBALLS (*Lycoperdon mixtecorum* and *L. marginatum*) are used by the Mixtec Indians Of Oaxaca, Mexico as auditory hallucinogens. After eating these fungi, a native hears voices and echoes. There is apparently no ceremony connected with puffballs, and they do not enjoy the place as divinatory agents that the mushrooms do in Oaxaca. *L. mixtecorum* is the stronger of the two. It is called *gi-i-wa*, meaning "fungus of the first quality." *L. marginatum*, which has a strong odor of excrement is known as *gi-i-sa-wa*, meaning "fungus of the second quality."

Although intoxicating substances have not yet been found in the puffballs, there are reports in the literature that some of them have had narcotic effects when eaten. Most of the estimated 50 to 100 species of *Lycoperdon* grow in mossy forests of the temperate zone. They belong to the Lycoperdaceae, a family of the Gasteromycetes.