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## SECOND MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL DOTHISTROMA ALLIANCE

Lindsay Bulman was recently awarded funding from the Bilateral Research Activities Programme (BRAP) to travel to Austria and Czech Republic to meet with European Dothistroma researchers. The aim was to share information and progress an international cooperative research programme on Dothistroma needle blight. This workshop followed the first held at Smithers in Canada in October 2006. Rosie Bradshaw from Massey University also attended both meetings.

The Dothistroma needle-blight workshop started in Vienna, Austria on 1 September 2008, followed by a tour of Dothistroma sites in Czech Republic from 2 to 5 September. The workshop was well attended, and 17 scientists from 10 countries participated. There has been some publicity over the past four or five years regarding outbreaks of Dothistroma needle blight in Europe, but unfortunately (from a pathologist's perspective) during our visit Dothistroma needle blight was very rare. A dry summer was thought to be responsible. We visited a nature reserve where bog pines (*Pinus rotundata*) were infected by *Lecanosticta acicola* (= *Mycosphaerella dearnessii*), the causal agent of brown spot needle blight of pines. *Lecanosticta acicola* appears to be of North American origin but has spread to China, South Africa, Central and South America, and Europe. It was first reported from Europe in 1978 and was first found in the Czech Republic in 2007. Brown spot needle blight has been confused with Dothistroma needle blight in the past and having seen it first hand it is now easy to see why. See [www.eppo.org/QUARANTINE/fungi/Mycosphaerella\\_dearnessii/pm7-46\(1\)%20SCIRAC%20web.pdf](http://www.eppo.org/QUARANTINE/fungi/Mycosphaerella_dearnessii/pm7-46(1)%20SCIRAC%20web.pdf) for more information.

At the end of the workshop a research plan was developed and potential sources of funding identified. Research topics identified during discussion included monitoring and diagnostics (methods for early identification, DNA); epidemiology (interaction with other foliar diseases of pines, pathogen variation with regard to dothistromin production and its relationship to virulence and pathogenicity, dispersal); and management (silvicultural control of disease, biological control, chemical control, and host susceptibility and resistance). Potential sources of funding included a COST (Co-operation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research) action, Norway-Czech cooperation funding, or

the European Union Framework 7. It was thought that a research programme on Dothistroma needle blight only was too specific to obtain funding from the latter. Thanks are due to Mirka Bednářová and Libor Jankovský from the University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno for organising the workshop, and to the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology for partly funding the visit through BRAP.

Lindsay Bulman

## NEW FIELD GUIDE: "THE RECOGNITION AND CLASSIFICATION OF NEONECTRIA FUCKELIANA CANKERS"

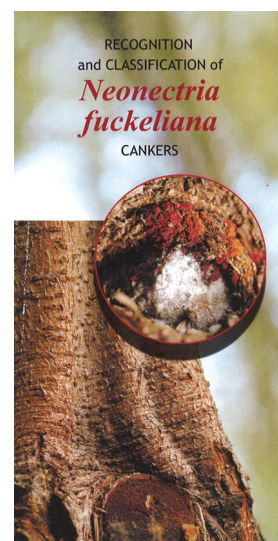
The Forest Health Research Collaborative has funded Scion, Forest Protection to produce a pocket field guide on *Nectria flute* cankers, based on the electronic guide provided to Collaborative members in 2007.

The objective of the field guide is to assist in the identification and classification of *Nectria flute* canker symptoms with particular reference to trees being assessed for pruning or for disease incidence. The guide also shows characteristics of internal stem damage and fungal fruiting bodies.

It is anticipated that the guide will facilitate the field diagnosis of disease occurrence and severity both within known infested stands and in stands outside the known infested area. Recognition of symptom severity by age class and silvicultural treatment will assist forest managers in disease incidence assessment and tree selection, as well as disease detection.

The guide will soon be posted on the FHRC website (<http://www.fhrc.org.nz/reports/>). Copies of the field guide are available from the Scion Knowledge Centre for \$15 + GST. Contact [publications@scionresearch.com](mailto:publications@scionresearch.com)

Margaret Dick



## DENMARK - DECAY IN URBAN TREES

In August and September this year, Dr Anna Hopkins from Scion spent two weeks in Denmark working on a collaborative research project on the fungus *Neonectria fuckeliana* with Dr Iben Thomsen from Forest and Landscape Denmark, now a part of the University of Copenhagen (see FH News 188).

During this time, Anna was fortunate to be able to assist Iben with some urban forestry work. Urban forestry is extremely important in Denmark, with large numbers of trees in public parks and streets examined on a regular basis to ensure they are safe, and not likely to fall or drop branches on people or property.

One of the techniques used to examine the stability of trees is a sonar system called Picus which can detect decay within the stem of the tree. Used in conjunction with a visual assessment of the tree and a sound knowledge of wood decay fungi, this technique has been found to be extremely helpful in determining whether a tree is safe enough to leave in an urban area.



Iben Thomsen (left) and colleague using the Picus to look for decay in an urban tree in Copenhagen, Denmark.

## NEW RECORDS

**New host record for New Zealand – Insect:** *Kaloterme brouni* (Kalotermitidae); **Region:** Auckland; **Host:** *Buddleja davidii*; **Coll:** C Inglis, 31/12/2008; **Ident:** J Bain, 06/01/2009; **Comments:** This native termite utilises the dead, dry wood of a wide range of native and exotic hardwoods and softwoods.

**New host record for New Zealand – Insect:** *Didymus intutus* (Curculionidae); **Region:** Auckland; **Host:** *Buddleja davidii*; **Coll:** C Inglis, 31/12/2008; **Ident:** S Sopow, 06/01/2009; **Comments:** This native weevil has been reared from the dead wood of many species and is particularly common on coastal vegetation.

**New host record for New Zealand – Insect:** *Spilotrogia pulchella* (Cerambycidae); **Region:** Wellington; **Host:** *Lagunaria patersonia*; **Coll:** B Rogan, 12/11/2008; **Ident:** D Jones, 09/01/2009; **Comments:** This native beetle is quite widespread but I can find no hosts records for it.

**New host record for New Zealand – Insect:** *Mitophyllus arcuatus* (Lucanidae); **Region:** Auckland; **Host:** *Prunus* sp.; **Coll:** C Inglis, 14/01/2009; **Ident:** S Sopow, 19/01/2009; **Comments:** This native stag beetle feeds in dead and rotten wood and has been recorded from *Corynocarpus*, *Ficus*, *Leptospermum*, *Melicytus*, *Ulex*, and *Weinmannia*. It has only been found in the northern half of the North Island.

**New host record for New Zealand – Insect:** *Lindingaspis rossi* (Diaspididae); **Region:** Wellington; **Host:** *Plagianthus regius*; **Coll:** B Rogan, 14/01/2009; **Ident:** S Sopow, 19/01/2009; **Comments:** This scale insect is sub-cosmopolitan in the tropics and sub-tropics. It has been recorded from a wide range of native and exotic plants.

**New host record for New Zealand – Insect:** *Leucaspis cordylinidis* (Diaspididae); **Region:** Wellington; **Host:** *Cordyline terminalis*; **Coll:** B Rogan, 20/01/2009; **Ident:** R Henderson, 02/02/2009; **Comments:** There are records of this species in the Forest Health Database from *Carmichaelia*, *Cordyline* sp. and *Pseudopanax*.

**New host record for New Zealand – Insect:** *Pseudaulacaspis cordylinidis* (Diaspididae); **Region:** Wellington; **Host:** *Cordyline terminalis*; **Coll:** B Rogan, 20/01/2009; **Ident:** R Henderson, 02/02/2009; **Comments:** This native scale insect has previously been recorded from *Asplenium*, *Astelia*, *Cordyline*, *Eucalyptus*, *Gahnia*, *Phormium*, and *Pseudowintera*.

**New host record for New Zealand – Insect:** *Nipaecoccus aurilanatus* (Pseudococcidae); **Region:** Auckland; **Host:** *Araucaria angustifolia*; **Coll:** W Coenradi, 20/01/2009; **Ident:** S Sopow, 29/01/2009; **Comments:** This Australian species was first recorded in New Zealand in 1890. It has been recorded from various species of *Araucaria* and *Agathis* here, but not the native *Agathis australis*.

**New host record for New Zealand – Insect:** *Icerya purchasi* (Margarodidae); **Region:** Auckland; **Host:** *Pittosporum tenuifolium*; **Coll:** C Inglis, 29/01/2009; **Ident:** S Sopow, 03/02/2009; **Comments:** A polyphagous Australian species first recorded in New Zealand in 1879. It has an almost world-wide distribution, particularly where citrus is grown.

**New host record for New Zealand – Fungus:** *Diplodia mutila*; **Region:** Nelson; **Host:** *Acer platanoides*; **Coll:** B Rogan, 16/10/2008; **Ident:** K Walbert, 04/12/2008; **Comments:** This is a weak secondary pathogen associated with a wide variety of hosts.

**New host record for New Zealand – Fungus:** *Alternaria alternata*; **Region:** Taupo; **Host:** *Pseudotsuga menziesii*; **Coll:** M Ryan, 10/11/2008; **Ident:** K Walbert, 06/01/2008; **Comments:** This is a common saprophyte found on many plants.

**New host record for New Zealand – Fungus:** *Fusarium solani*; **Region:** Nelson; **Host:** *Robinia pseudoacacia*; **Coll:** B Doherty, 15/10/2008; **Ident:** K Walbert, 06/01/2008; **Comments:** The fungus was associated with cankers on the trunk of the host.

**New host record for New Zealand – Fungus:** *Bionectria ochroleuca*; **Region:** Nelson; **Host:** *Quercus robur*; **Coll:** B Doherty, 15/10/2008; **Ident:** K Walbert, 28/01/2008; **Comments:** This species has been recorded from a wide range of hosts. It is not known to be a pathogen of *Quercus* or other trees.

John Bain