

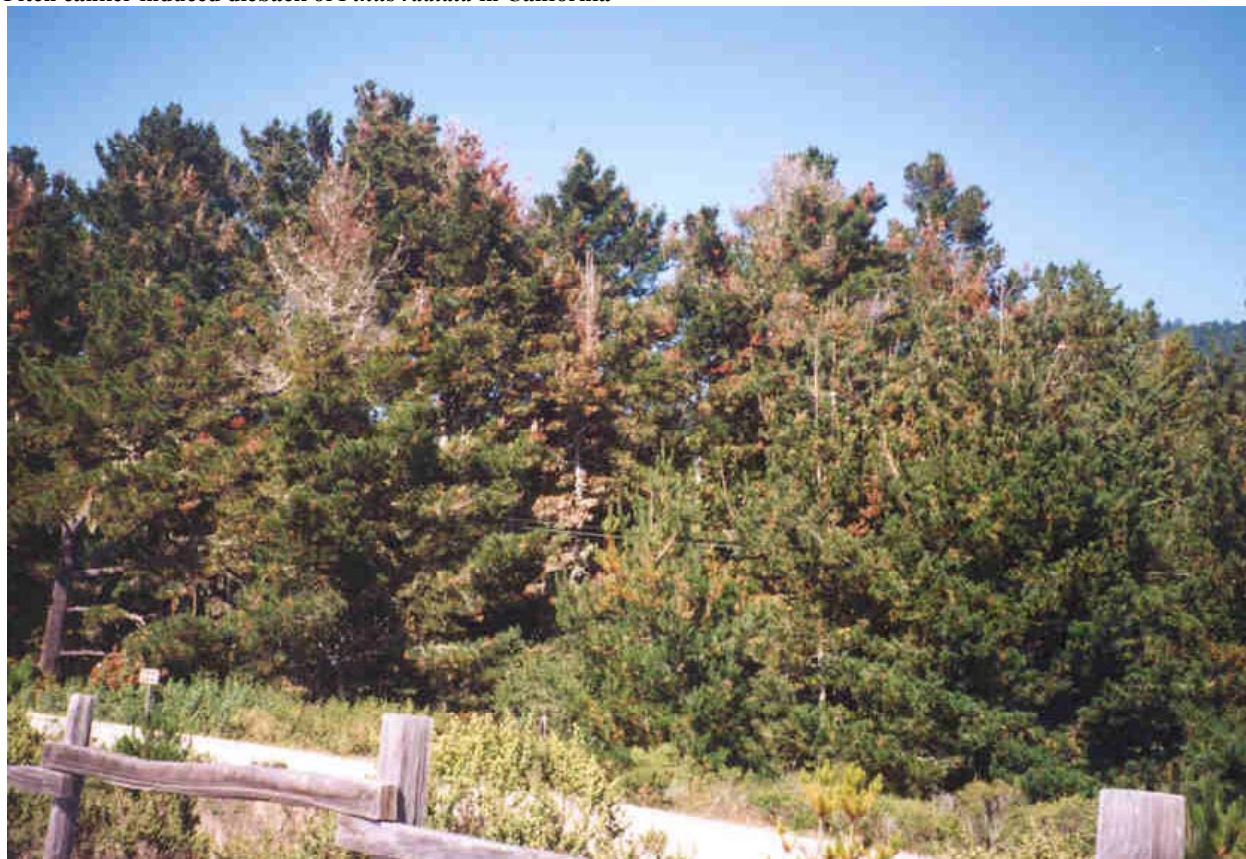
- **RESPONSE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR AN INCURSION OF PINE PITCH CANKER IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**

Pitch canker disease of pines, caused by the fungus *Fusarium circinatum*, is a serious disease of southern pines (*Pinus elliottii*, *P. taeda*) in south-eastern United States and of *Pinus radiata* in California. It is also known from the Caribbean, Central America, Japan and South Africa. This disease presents a major threat to the large exotic forest industries, based principally on pines, in Australia and New Zealand (*FHNews* 69:1, 70:1, 86:1). Recognising this, the Australasian Standing Committee on Forestry has commissioned the preparation of an Incursion Management Plan specifically for pine pitch canker, for both Australia and New Zealand. The Standing Committee on Forestry comprises representatives nominated by the Minister for Forestry in each State and Territory of Australia, the Commonwealth

Government of Australia, and New Zealand. Murray McAlonan, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, represents New Zealand. The Committee provides “authoritative policy and strategic advice to help drive sustainable national and regional development of forestry and related industries”.

The Standing Committee on Forestry has entrusted the Forest Health Group at *Forest Research* with the preparation of the Incursion Management Plan, acknowledging that the Group collectively possesses greater expertise in pine pitch canker management than any other body in Australasia. The Forest Health Group will be responsible for writing the general part of the Plan, which will apply to both countries, and the segments that refer specifically to New Zealand. The parts applicable solely to Australia will be contributed by Jack Simpson (State Forests of New South Wales) and Ross Wylie (Queensland Forestry Research Institute).

**Pitch canker induced dieback of *Pinus radiata* in California**



The Management Plan will detail the procedures to be followed to minimise the risk of pine pitch canker introduction, and to ensure rapid detection and a quick and effective response if it does arrive. The Plan follows the guidelines laid down in the general incursion management plans for Australia ("Responding to Incursions: A Generic Incursion Management Plan for the Australian Forest Sector") and for New Zealand ("Policy Statement on Responding to an Exotic Organism Incursion". MAF Biosecurity Authority). The Plan will also include a comprehensive summary of our current knowledge of the disease, the fungus that causes it, the way the disease is likely to behave in Australia and New Zealand, and an economic evaluation of the likely effect of the disease on pine plantations. A first draft of the Plan should be ready by the end of October.

(Peter Gadgil, Forest Research)

#### • MORE ON URABA

Following the discovery of the Australian gum leaf skeletoniser (*Uraba lugens*) in Auckland in early August (*FHNews* 110: 1), the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has contracted HortResearch (Max Suckling) to carry out work on identifying the insect's sex pheromone. *Uraba* was previously known only at Mt Maunganui where it was first found in 1997. *Forest Research* will supply viable eggs to enable HortResearch to start its own quarantine breeding population. This will provide the adults needed for the pheromone research work. If all goes well, the eggs will be obtained by mating adults that develop from larvae that were sent from Auckland to *Forest Research* for diagnosis. These larvae are being reared and bred on eucalypt foliage under strict quarantine. The object of the project is the production of a synthetic pheromone for monitoring the *Uraba* populations, and hopefully for confirming a successful eradication in the future.

(John Bain, Forest Research)

#### • NEW RECORDS

The following records reported by the Forest Health Reference Laboratory (*Forest Research*) result from a general surveillance programme comprising public enquires, and small block and risk site surveys, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Members of the public are encouraged to submit to this laboratory any samples of pests or pest damage on trees or shrubs that they suspect might be new to New Zealand. This is a free service funded by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for the detection of new pest introductions.

**Correction:** The report of *Vizella tunicata* as a new host record (*FHNews* 109: 2) should correctly have been an "extension to known distribution" for Bay of Plenty.

**New host record for New Zealand – Alga:** *Cephaleuros virescens*; **Bioregion:** Bay of Plenty; **Host:**

*Banksia serrata*; **Coll:** L Renney, 12/7/2001; **Ident:** K Dobbie, 26/7/2001; **Comments:** This is a common algal leaf spot found on a wide range of native and introduced trees and shrubs. It occurs throughout the tropic and subtropical regions and is reported on 105 host species in 40 different families. It appears to cause little harm to the majority of its hosts.

**New host record for New Zealand – Alga:** *Cephaleuros virescens*; **Bioregion:** Gisborne; **Host:** *Banksia marginata*; **Coll:** C Barr, 31/7/2001; **Ident:** MA Dick, 8/8/2001; **Comments:** Previously recorded on *Banksia serrata*.

**New host record for New Zealand and extension to known distribution – Fungus:** *Cryptosporiopsis eucalypti*; **Bioregion:** Nelson; **Host:** *Eucalyptus leucoxydon*; **Coll:** BH Doherty, 21/8/2001; **Ident:** MA Dick, 23/8/2001; **Comments:** Its other New Zealand hosts, based on collections held in NZFRI-M, are *E. botryoides*, *E. bridgesiana*, *E. calophylla*, *E. ficifolia*, *E. gunnii*, *E. leucoxydon*, and *E. ovata* var *grandiflora*.

**Extension to known distribution – Fungus:** *Stigmium eucalypti*; **Bioregion:** Wanganui; **Host:** *Eucalyptus ficifolia*; **Coll:** MR Twaddle, 23/7/2001; **Ident:** K Dobbie, 7/8/2001; **Comments:** This fungus was first found in New Zealand on *Eucalyptus ficifolia*, in New Plymouth in 1993 and was initially described from Australia on *E. tessellaris*. There is very little published information and none to suggest that it causes any significant damage.

**New host record for New Zealand – Fungus:** *Vermisporium eucalypti*; **Bioregion:** Taupo; **Host:** *Eucalyptus radiata*; **Coll:** L Renney, 31/7/2001; **Ident:** MA Dick, 14/8/2001; **Comments:** Six species of *Vermisporium* are known in New Zealand on a range of eucalypt species. They are frequently found in association with other fungi on leaves and their pathogenicity is uncertain.

**New host record for New Zealand – Insect:** *Acrocercops laciniella*; **Bioregion:** Auckland; **Host:** *Eucalyptus microcorys*; **Coll:** C Barr, 9/8/2001; **Ident:** TM Withers, 21/8/2001; **Comments:** Not found on this host before, and first record from *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Nothocalyptus* section *Sebaria*.

**Extension to known distribution – Insect:** *Holocola* sp.; **Bioregion:** Bay of Plenty; **Host:** *Acacia longifolia*; **Coll:** L Renney, 6/6/2001; **Ident:** TW Withers, 10/6/2001; **Comments:** Previously reported from Auckland, Wanganui and Nelson.

**Extension to known distribution – Insect:** *Uraba lugens*; **Bioregion:** Auckland; **Hosts:** *Eucalyptus cinerea*; **Coll:** L Renney, 9/8/2001; **Ident:** J Bain, 10/8/2001; **Comments:** *Uraba lugens* has been the target of an eradication attempt since its discovery in New Zealand. This is the first record outside of the localised region in Mt Maunganui where it was first recorded.

(Geoff, Ridley, Forest Research)