

Chrysoporthe canker

Description

Chrysoporthe canker of Eucalypts (*Eucalyptus*) in South Africa, Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia is caused by the fungus *Chrysoporthe austroafricana*. The same disease in South America and Asia is caused respectively by *Chr. cubensis* (previously known as *Cryphonectria cubensis*) and *Chr. deuterocubensis* (previously known as *C. cubensis*).

Primary hosts

The pathogen affects Eucalypts (including *Eucalyptus* and *Corymbia* spp.), *Tibouchina* spp. and *Syzygium* spp.

Symptoms

Disease on young trees causes wilt and dieback of foliage relating to the girdling of the stem by the pathogen.

Symptoms on older trees include the swelling, cracking and splitting of the bark at the bases of trees or the formation of sunken, target shaped cankers higher up the stems. These can be associated with branch stubs.

What it can be confused with

The disease can be confused with root diseases in young trees (such as *Phytophthora*) or with genetic/physiological disorders.

Plant part affected

The pathogen affects the stem and branches of infected hosts.

Age of plant

The disease can affect trees of all ages.

Time of year pest is most likely to be seen

The disease can be seen at any time of the year and is more likely to be an issue in subtropical and tropical regions of Australia.



Swelling and cracking at the base of *Eucalyptus* spp. caused by *Chrysoporthe austroafricana* infection



Discolouration of the cambium associated with infection by *Chr. deuterocubensis* on seedlings of *Corymbia* spp.



Further information

Nakabonge G, Roux J, Gryzenhout M, and Wingfield MJ (2006) Distribution of *Chrysosporthe* canker pathogens on *Eucalyptus* and *Syzygium* spp. in eastern and southern Africa. *Plant Disease* 90: 734–740.

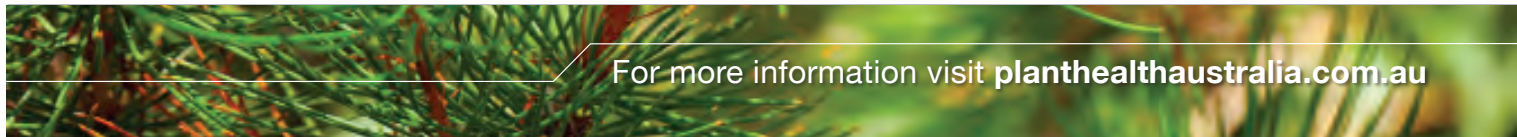
Heath RN, Gryzenhout M, Roux J and Wingfield MJ (2006) Discovery of the canker pathogen *Chrysosporthe austroafricana* on native *Syzygium* spp. in South Africa. *Plant Disease* 90: 433–438.

MC Fan CC, Huang ROC, Huang JS, Tsai SF, Yeh HC and Hong CF (2013) First report of *Chrysosporthe deuterocubensis* causing canker on *Syzygium samarangense* in Taiwan. *Plant Disease* 97: 1508.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline



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