

Apostrasseria lunata associated with seedling mortality of western white pine and Douglas-fir in British Columbia

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The anamorph of *Phacidium lunatum*, *Apostrasseria lunata* has been collected on dead seedlings of western white pine and Douglas-fir from a forest site in the interior of British Columbia.

Can. Plant Dis. Surv. 67: 1, 23, 1987.

L'anamorphe de *Phacidium lunatum*, *Apostrasseria lunata*, a été récolté sur des plantules mortes de pin argenté et de Douglas taxifolié trouvées sur un emplacement forestier à l'intérieur de la Colombie-Britannique.

Apostrasseria lunata (Shear) Nag Raj, the anamorph of *Phacidium lunatum*, Dicosmo, Nag Raj and Kendrick (1, 3), was described from collections of *Gaylussacia brachycera* Michx. Gray, *Gaultheria procumbens* L., and *Vaccinium macrocarpum* Ait. The collections were from Ontario and the eastern United States.

Dead western white pine (*Pinus monticola* Dougl.) seedlings collected in early July 1985 from a forest site near Revelstoke, British Columbia, had pycnidia of *A. lunata* scattered over the lower stem and branches. The seedlings, all natural regeneration, were believed to have died within a year of collection, probably during the previous winter. Numerous conidia were released after moistening.

A search for *A. lunata* in early September 1985 in the Revelstoke area provided a collection on dead Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco) seedlings and dead western white pine seedlings. The pycnidia examined contained very few conidia at this time. No pycnidia were found on healthy tissues.

Samples of the infected seedlings of both species are deposited in the herbarium (DAVFP) at the Pacific Forestry Centre.

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Accepted for publication January 9, 1987

These collections are the first ones of *A. lunata* reported from western white pine and Douglas-fir. They are also the first from a field situation in western Canada. However, *A. lunata* had been found (2) in 1984 on western larch (*Larix occidentalis* Nutt.) seedlings with damage of unknown cause; the damage, confined to necrotic needles, had developed during cold storage at the Chilliwack forest nursery.

The cause of death of the seedlings bearing *A. lunata* is unknown. No known pathogens, pests or other fungi were found on them. The seedlings were naturally regenerated and not subject to planting shock. Research into the nature of the association with *A. lunata* is required.

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank the staff of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey, especially R. Turnquist, for all their assistance.

Literature cited

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