

Phytophthora ramorum:
susceptibility of Australian plants,
potential geographic range and
science into policy and management

by

Kylie Belle Ireland

BA BSc (Hons), *Qld.*

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School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology
Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia

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DECLARATION

I declare that this thesis is my own account of my research and contains as its main content work which has not previously been submitted to a degree or diploma at any tertiary education institution.

Kylie Ireland

ABSTRACT

Phytophthora ramorum is an invasive plant pathogen causing considerable and widespread damage in nurseries, gardens and natural woodland ecosystems of the USA and Europe. In Australia, where it is classified as a Category 1 emergency plant pest, it has the potential to become a major economic and ecological threat in areas with susceptible hosts and a favourable climate. *Phytophthora ramorum* causes three distinct diseases on susceptible plants: ramorum leaf blight, ramorum shoot dieback and sudden oak death (characterised by lethal bole cankers). In some species, foliar infection can play a crucial role in disease development by producing inoculum that can drive an epiphytotic. The geographic origin of *P. ramorum* remains unknown and an understanding of the environmental requirements most conducive to establishment and persistence of disease under natural conditions is still poorly understood. This study aimed to: (a) provide an understanding of the foliar, branch and bole susceptibility to *P. ramorum* and sporangia producing potential of a broad range of Australian plant species; (b) develop a climate-based model of the potential geographic range of the pathogen; and (c) analyse the effectiveness of integration of scientific knowledge between European and North American policy and management responses to *P. ramorum*.

Detached leaves, branches and logs of up to 70 Australian native plant species were tested for their susceptibility and sporulation potential. Foliar susceptibility was tested using detached leaf assays for 70 Australian native plant species; twenty-eight of these species were tested for their ability to produce sporangia on foliage. Branch dieback susceptibility was tested for 66 of these species, six of which were further tested for their susceptibility to bole cankers caused by *P. ramorum* using a sealed log assay. All materials were sourced from native woodlands, established gardens and arboreta in California. Positive control species known to be naturally highly susceptible to *P. ramorum* were included in all experiments.

All species tested were capable of being infected by *P. ramorum*. Highly susceptible foliar hosts included *Banksia attenuata*, *Eucalyptus delegatensis*, *E. denticulata*, *E. viminalis*, *Isopogon cuneatus*, *I. formosus* and *Leptospermum scoparium*. *Hedycarya angustifolia*, *Olearia argophylla*, *Phyllocladus aspleniifolius*, *Pittosporum undulatum* and *Podocarpus lawrencei*

were identified as potentially resistant foliar hosts. Putative sporulating hosts include five members of the Myrtaceae: *Agonis flexuosa*, *C. ficifolia*, *E. haemastoma*, *E. delegatensis* and *E. viminalis*. Highly susceptible branch hosts included *E. denticulata*, *E. sideroxylon*, *E. viminalis*, *Hardenbergia violaceae*, *I. formosus* and *N. cunninghamii*. Thirteen potentially tolerant branch dieback hosts were identified and included *B. attenuata*, *B. marginata*, *Billardiera heterophylla*, *E. haemastoma*, *E. regnans* and *P. undulatum*. *Eucalyptus regnans* was identified as a potentially highly susceptible bole canker host, while *E. diversicolor* and *E. viminalis* were considered potentially tolerant species to bole cankers caused by *P. ramorum*.

A simulation model was developed using CLIMEX to estimate the global climate suitability patterns for establishment of *P. ramorum*. Growth requirements and stress response parameters were derived from ecophysiological laboratory observations and site-level transmission and disease factors related to climate data in the field. Models fitted to the European (EU1) and combined EU1 and North American (NA1) genotypes indicated that European genotypes may be constrained to a greater degree by higher temperatures than North American genotypes. The combined risk model suggests that the invasion of *P. ramorum* in both North America and Europe is still in its infancy and it is presently occupying a small fraction of its available range. Southern Europe may be at greater risk of invasion should the NA1 genotype be introduced into warmer areas unsuitable for the predominant EU1 genotype. *Phytophthora ramorum* appears to be climatically suited to large areas of Australasia (including New Zealand), Africa and South America. Potential distribution in Australia indicates south east coastal Australia, the southwest region of Western Australia and Tasmania are at highest risk of invasion.

Comparison of the integration of science into policy-making and control efforts in Europe and North America are varied, representing the use of many different ‘boundary arrangements’. Experiences with *P. ramorum* in these regions indicate that future biosecurity efforts to prevent the entry and establishment of *P. ramorum* and other invasive organisms may benefit from: (i) fostering local management approaches which connect and build relationships with affected communities and build capacity accordingly; (ii) incorporating structural arrangements for the integration of science into policy at a national level, encouraging scientists and policy makers to

directly engage with one-another to allow for the rapid dissemination of new knowledge directly applicable to policy applications; (iii) aiming to produce regional or global pest risk analyses which enable knowledge and research cost-sharing, and; (iv) investment in studies outlining the effectiveness and success of different boundary arrangements in achieving positive biosecurity outcomes.

These results extend the known potential host range for *P. ramorum* and define its potential geographic range, confirming it as a potential threat to Australian plant industries and ecosystems. Caution is advised when interpreting these results; the species studied represent only a small proportion of Australian taxa which exist in climatically suitable areas for the pathogen in Australia and invasive organisms may behave differently in novel locations given different environmental and management constraints. Nevertheless, risk predictions generated by the model, an understanding of the pathogen's potential host range and analysis of the best way to integrate this knowledge into policy and management efforts will allow us to target high risk areas for early detection surveillance and assist Australian regulators in developing appropriate quarantine policies and protocols.

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Ireland, K.B., D. Hüberli, B. Dell, I.W. Smith, D.M. Rizzo and G.E. St J. Hardy (Online).

“Potential susceptibility of Australian native flora to NA2 isolate of *Phytophthora ramorum* and pathogen sporulation potential.” *Forest Pathology*. doi: 10.1111/j.1439-

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“Potential susceptibility of Australian native plant species to branch dieback and bole canker diseases of *Phytophthora ramorum*.” *Plant Pathology*. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-

3059.2011.02513.x 225

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AL	Alabama
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
APPPC	Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission
AQIS	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
ARS	Agricultural Research Service
AVH	Australia's Virtual Herbarium
BA	Biosecurity Australia
BC	British Columbia
CA	California
CDF	Californian Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CDFA	Californian Department of Food and Agriculture
CDX	Cold-Dry Stress
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CFPC	California Forest Pest Council
COMTF	California Oak Mortality Task Force, USA
CPHST	Centre for Plant Health Science and Technology
CRC NPB	Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity
CRC NPB	Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity
CS	Cold Stress
cv.	cultivar
CWX	Cold-Wet Stress
DE	Delaware
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Dept. of Ag.	Department of Agriculture
DIG	Dieback Information Group
DIUS	Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills
DPI	Department of Primary Industries (with primary reference to Australian state agencies)
DS	Dry Stress
DTI	Department for Trade and Industry
EPPO	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation
EI	Ecoclimatic Index
EU	European Union
EU1	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> European genotype 1
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation

FERA	Food and Environment Research Agency, UK
FL	Florida
GA	Georgia
GH	Glasshouse
GI_A	Annual Growth Index
HDX	Hot-Dry Stress
HWX	Hot-Wet Stress
HM	Her Majesty's
HS	Hot Stress
IMEDEA	Instudio Mediterraneo de Estudios Avanzados (Mediterranean Institute of Advanced Studies)
IN	Indiana
INRA	National Institute for Agricultural Research
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ISPM	International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
KY	Kentucky
LA	Louisiana
MI	Moisture Index
MS	Mississippi
MT	Montana
NA1	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> North American genotype 1
NA2	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> North American genotype 2
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NAPPO	North American Plant Protection Organisation
NJ	New Jersey
ODA	Oregon Department of Agriculture
OR	Oregon
OSU	Oregon State University
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PHA	Plant Health Australia
PHQuads	Plant Health Quadrilaterals
PPQ	Plant Health, Plant Protection and Quarantine
PRA	Pest Risk Analysis/Assessment
RAPRA	Risk Analysis for <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>
SCWG	Scientific Collaboration Working Group (PHQuads)
SFBG	San Francisco Botanical Gardens
SI	Stress Index
SOD	Sudden Oak Death

SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
SX	Stress Interaction Index
TGI	Thermo-hydrological Growth Index
TI	Temperature Index
TN	Tennessee
UC	University of California
UCB	University of California, Berkeley
UCD	University of California, Davis
UCSC	University of California, Santa Cruz
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States (of America)
USA	United States of America
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
UT	Utah
VA	Virginia
WA	Washington
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
WS	Wet Stress
WV	West Virginia
ZOI	Zone of Infestation

LIST OF PLANT SPECIES

Australian species included in experiments

Species	Common name(s)	Synonym/parent species	Family
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver wattle		Mimosaceae
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood		Mimosaceae
<i>Acmena smithii</i>	Lilly pilly		Myrtaceae
<i>Adenanthos obovatus</i>	Jug flower		Proteaceae
<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	Willow myrtle		Myrtaceae
<i>Atherosperma moschatum</i>	Southern sassafras		Monomiaceae
<i>Banksia attenuata</i>	Slender banksia		Proteaceae
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver banksia		Proteaceae
<i>Bauera rubioides</i>	Dog rose; River rose		Baueraceae
<i>Billardiera heterophylla</i>	Blue-bell creeper	<i>Sollya heterophylla</i>	Pittosporaceae
<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	Kurrajong		Sterculiaceae
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Blackthorn; Sweet Bursaria		Pittosporaceae
<i>Callitris rhomboidea</i>	Port Jackson Pine		Cupressaceae
<i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i>	Coachwood		Cunoniaceae
<i>Correa alba</i>	White correa		Rutaceae
<i>Correa backhousiana</i>	Velvet correa		Rutaceae
<i>Correa decumbens</i>			Rutaceae
<i>Correa</i> cv. Ivory Bells	Correa	<i>Correa alba</i> x <i>C. backhousiana</i>	Rutaceae

<i>Correa reflexa</i>	Common correa; native fuchsia		Rutaceae
<i>Correa</i> cv. Sister Dawn			Rutaceae
<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i>	Red-flowering gum	<i>Eucalyptus ficifolia</i>	Myrtaceae
<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	Spotted gum	<i>Eucalyptus maculata</i>	Myrtaceae
<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>	Soft tree fern		Dicksoniaceae
<i>Dodonea viscosa</i>	Sticky hop bush		Sapindaceae
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River red gum		Myrtaceae
<i>Eucalyptus cneorifolia</i>		<i>Eucalyptus myrtiformis</i> , <i>E. hypericifolia</i>	Myrtaceae
<i>Eucalyptus delegatensis</i>	Alpine ash; Woollybutt		Myrtaceae
<i>Eucalyptus denticulata</i>	Errinundra Shining Gum	<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp. aff. <i>nitens</i> (Errinundra)	Myrtaceae
<i>Eucalyptus diversicolor</i>	Karri		Myrtaceae
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Tasmanian blue gum		Myrtaceae
<i>Eucalyptus haemastoma</i>	Scribbly gum		Myrtaceae
<i>Eucalyptus laeliae</i>	Darling Range ghost gum		
<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i>	Yellow gum		Myrtaceae
<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>	Snow gum		Myrtaceae
<i>Eucalyptus regnans</i>	Mountain ash		Myrtaceae
<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i>	Sydney blue gum		Myrtaceae
<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i>	Red ironbark		Myrtaceae
<i>Hakea rostrata</i>	Beaked pincushion tree		Proteaceae
<i>Hardenbergia violaceae</i>	Native sarsaparilla; Purple coral pea		Papilionaceae
<i>Hedycarya angustifolia</i>	Austral mulberry		Monomiaceae

Australian species included in experiments (continued)

Species	Common name(s)	Synonym/parent species	Family
<i>Isopogon cuneatus</i>	Coneflower		Proteaceae
<i>Isopogon formosus</i>	Rose cone flower		Proteaceae
<i>Lagarostrobos franklinii</i>	Huon pine'; Macquarie pine	<i>Dacrydium franklinii</i>	Podocarpaceae
<i>Leptospermum grandiflorum</i>	Mountain tea tree		Myrtaceae
<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>	Silky tea tree		Myrtaceae
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	Manuka		Myrtaceae
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-head mat-rush; Basket grass		Asparagaceae
<i>Lomatia myricoides</i>	Long-leaf lomatia		Proteaceae
<i>Macadamia tetraphylla</i>			Proteaceae
<i>Melaleuca squamea</i>	Swamp honey-myrtle		Myrtaceae
<i>Nothofagus cunninghamii</i>	Myrtle beech		Fagaceae
<i>Nothofagus moorei</i>	Antarctic beech		Fagaceae
<i>Olearia argophylla</i>	Native musk; Silver shrub		Asteraceae
<i>Phyllocladus aspleniifolius</i>	Celery-top pine		Podocarpaceae
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Sweet pittosporum; native daphne		Pittosporaceae
<i>Podocarpus lawrencei</i>	Mountain plum pine	<i>Podocarpus alpina</i> var. <i>lawrencei</i>	Podocarpaceae
<i>Polyscias sambucifolia</i>	Elderberry panax		Araliaceae
<i>Pomaderris apetala</i>	Dogwood/Hazel		Rhamnaceae
<i>Prostanthera lasianthos</i>	Victorian Christmas tree		Lamiaceae

<i>Senecio linearifolius</i>			Asteraceae
<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	Grass trigger plant		Stylidiaceae
<i>Tasmannia lanceolata</i>	Mountain pepper	<i>Drimys lanceolata</i>	Winteraceae
<i>Taxandria marginata</i>	Arnica	<i>Agonis marginata</i>	Myrtaceae
<i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i>	Kanooka	<i>Tristania laurina</i>	Myrtaceae
<i>Viola hederaceae</i>	Native violet; Ivy-leaved violet		Violaceae
<i>Xanthorrhoeae australis</i>	Grass tree		Xanthorrhoeaceae
<i>Xanthorrhoea preisii</i>	Grass tree		Xanthorrhoeaceae
Control species included in experiments			
<i>Notholithocarpus densiflorus</i>	Tanoak	<i>Lithocarpus densiflorus</i>	Fagaceae
<i>Rhododendron</i> cv. Colonel Coen			Ericaceae
<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	California bay laurel; Oregon myrtle		Lauraceae

PREFACE

This Ph.D. thesis is composed of three papers which have been submitted for publication to refereed international journals and a final thesis chapter intended for future publication. To enhance the structure the thesis, the following changes have been made:

- References been removed and aggregated to a single list of references at the end of the thesis;
- Abstracts and acknowledgements have been removed;
- Cross-references to papers and supplementary material within the thesis have been changed to refer to chapter number or appendix;
- Abbreviations are cited at the earliest point in the thesis and generally not repeated and a list of abbreviations is provided;
- Species are shortened after first mentioned and a list of plant species included in the studies provided.

Publications arising from this project are as follows and early online editions published after the submission of the thesis are appended in Appendix D:

REFEREED JOURNAL PAPERS

Chapter 2: Ireland, K.B., D. Hüberli, B. Dell, I.W. Smith, D.M. Rizzo and G.E. St J. Hardy (Online). “Potential susceptibility of Australian native flora to NA2 isolate of *Phytophthora ramorum* and pathogen sporulation potential.” *Forest Pathology*. doi: 10.1111/j.1439-0329.2011.00755.x

Chapter 3: Ireland, K.B., D. Hüberli, B. Dell, I.W. Smith, D.M. Rizzo and G.E. St J. Hardy (Online). “Potential susceptibility of Australian native plant species to branch dieback and bole canker diseases of *Phytophthora ramorum*.” *Plant Pathology*. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-3059.2011.02513.x

All of these publications are my own work (> 90 %), based on experiments planned and conducted by myself under academic supervision. Supervisors contributed through acquiring funds for the project and outlining the initial project proposal, which I then altered to bring about my own research directive. All co-authors contributed to editing of the papers they were on.

Roles of co-authors are as follows:

Prof. Bernard Dell (Chapter 2 and 3): Co-supervisor through Murdoch University.

Prof. Giles E. St J. Hardy (Chapters 2, 3 and 4): Primary supervisor through Murdoch University.

Dr Daniel Hüberli (Chapter 2 and 3): Co-supervisor through Murdoch University.

Mr Ian W. Smith (Chapter 2 and 3): Co-supervisor and collaborator from the University of Melbourne.

Prof. David M. Rizzo (Chapter 2 and 3): Collaborator and host at the University of California, Davis.

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Ireland, K., D. Hüberli, B. Dell, I. Smith, D. Rizzo and G.E. St J. Hardy (2009). “Susceptibility of Australian Plant Species to *Phytophthora ramorum*.” In: *Proceedings of the Sudden Oak Death Fourth Science Symposium. Gen. Tech. Rep. PSW-GTR-229*, S. J. Frankel, J. T. Kliejunas and K. M. Palmieri, tech. cords. Albany, CA: U.S.A, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station: 202-206.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

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