

Fishing for *Phytophthora* across Western Australia's waterways

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The outbreak of *P. ramorum* in California and Europe, where early detection of an infested area is important to the success of containment and eradication efforts, has popularised the stream surveys in native ecosystems. In Australia, it has recently been used to detect *Phytophthora* spp. in Victoria resulting in several species being isolated (2). Our aim was to catalogue the *Phytophthora* spp. present in Western Australia's (WA) waterways using the stream baiting technique.

Seventy-seven waterways were sampled during October to December 2008. Bait bags with leaves were deployed, retrieved and returned after ~10 days in the water. Leaves were plated onto NARPH agar and checked periodically for *Phytophthora* colonies during incubation at 20°C for 2 weeks. Colonies were isolated into pure culture and grouped into morpho-types. One representative morpho-type from each site per sampling was identified using the sequence of the ITS region of the rDNA, conducting a BLAST search on Genbank and a phylogenetic analysis (1).

A total of nine *Phytophthora* species were isolated of which 6 belonged to ITS clade 6. Only two are currently described (*P. inundata* and *P. cinnamomi* var. *pavispora*), while the remaining seven are possibly new species. These undescribed species were assigned taxa numbers as described in (1); P.sp. 12-15 are potential new taxa. The most frequently isolated species in the southwest were *P. inundata*, P.sp.12 and P.sp.13. That *P. inundata* is widespread in WA's southwest is of concern as it has been found previously in soil and roots from dead native vegetation (3). Little is known about P.sp.12 and P.sp.13.

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