

Book review

T.C. Harrington & F.W. Cobb, Jr (Eds), 1988. *Leptographium* root diseases on conifers. APS Press, St. Paul, Minnesota. 149 pp. ISBN 0-89054-085-3. Price \$ 30.

This publication is a compilation of five papers presented at the symposium 'Verticicladiella spp. as root pathogens of conifers' in Reno, USA, 1985. A sixth chapter discussing several species of *Leptographium* in western Canada is included. All the information was updated in 1987.

The first chapter reviews the taxonomy of *Leptographium* (= *Verticicladiella*) and related species, and their distribution, hosts and insect vectors. In this chapter short comments are given on 34 *Leptographium* species, and their teleomorphs (*Ophiostoma* spp.) when these are known. The review clearly depicts the taxonomic problems in the genus due to ill-defined generic and species limits, and at the same time it presents an excellent introduction to this group. Chapter 2 describes the symptoms, pathogenesis, epidemiology and disease management of *L. wageneri*, the cause of black-stain root disease mainly of pine species. Chapter 3 treats the biology, vector relations and disease management of *L. wageneri* in douglas fir. Chapter 4 compares 2 varieties of *L. wageneri*: one on douglas fir (var. *pseudotsugae*) and the other one on pine species (var. *ponderosae*), and describes the significance of *L. procerum* and *L. terebrantis*; the 2 latter species being considered as weak pathogens. In Chapter 5 *L. procerum* is treated in more detail. *L. procerum* is a blue stain fungus whose pathogenicity apparently is still under discussion and which also occurs in Europe and in New Zealand. The final chapter is a general review of the significance of *Leptographium* root diseases in the world, with emphasis on the diseases they cause outside the United States.

'*Leptographium* root diseases on conifers' is an excellent introduction to the topic. The literature cited comprises 240 references. This book is primarily intended for forest pathologists, secondly for taxonomists working on this large group of fungi, and thirdly for entomologists working on insect vectors of *Leptographium* spp. For anyone interested in, or wishing to update their knowledge on this topic, it will be very useful.

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