

NEW DISEASE REPORT

***Puccinia psidii* on *Eucalyptus globulus* in Uruguay**

N. Telechea^a, M. Rolfo^a, T. A. Coutinho^{b*} and M. J. Wingfield^b

^aDepartment of Forest Pests and Diseases, Dirección General Forestal, Ministerio de Ganadería Agricultura y Pesca, Montevideo, Uruguay; and ^bDepartment of Microbiology and Plant Pathology, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria, Pretoria 0002, South Africa

Puccinia psidii is native to South and Central America and the Caribbean, where it causes a serious leaf and shoot disease of a wide range of Myrtaceae (Coutinho *et al.*, 1998). These include the native *Psidium guajava* (guava) and introduced *Eucalyptus* species (Ferreira, 1983). In 2002 a rust fungus was observed causing severe damage to 1-year-old trees during a routine disease survey of *Eucalyptus globulus* in Uruguay. The disease occurred only in one plantation in the Levalleja area, and damage was uniform throughout the stand. The rust produced egg-yolk yellow pustules on the leaves and resulted in shoot-tip dieback. The characteristic pustules and morphological examination of uredinia and urediniospores showed that the fungus was indistinguishable from *Puccinia psidii*.

Puccinia psidii has previously been reported in Uruguay on native Myrtaceae (Koch de Brotos *et al.*, 1981), and in recent years has been observed by the senior author on *Psidium guajava* and *Eucalyptus grandis*. The rust has been reported on other *Eucalyptus* species in South and Central America, including *E. grandis* and *E. urophylla* but this is the first report of *Puccinia psidii* occurring on

the economically important *E. globulus*. This species is being widely planted in South America, and the disease poses a particular threat to Chile and a potential risk to countries such as Portugal, which has extensive plantings of *E. globulus*. This fact, together with the wide host range of the fungus, makes it a pathogen of considerable global importance (Coutinho *et al.*, 1998). Countries such as South Africa and Australia, which have a number of native species of Myrtaceae, are particularly at risk.

References

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- Koch de Brotos L, Boasso O, Riccio de Machado C, Gandolfo Antunez C, 1981. *Enfermedades de las Plantas Hongos Superiores y Saprofitas en Uruguay*. Montevideo, Uruguay: Departamento de Comunicaciones, Dirección de Sanidad Vegetal, Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca.

*E-mail: teresa.coutinho@fabi.up.ac.za

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