

QUAMBALARIA LEAF AND SHOOT BLIGHT

Causal agent: *Quambalaria eucalypti*

Hosts: *Eucalyptus* hybrids, *Eucalyptus nitens* (In Australia *Corymbia* species are highly susceptible to the sister species *Q. pitereka*)

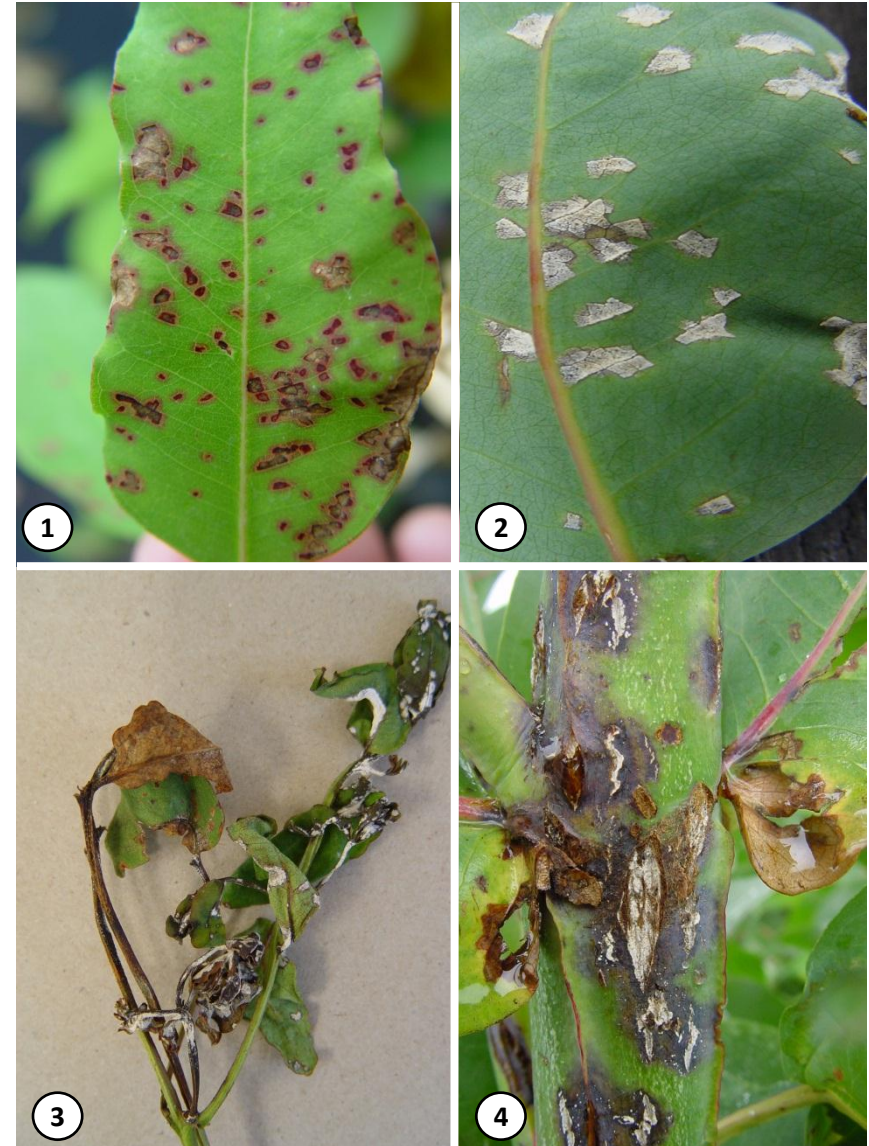
Geographic distribution: Zululand and Carolina areas of South Africa

Relative importance: In nurseries infection of hedges leads to shoot and leaf death, thus impacting on cutting production. In the field the fungus mostly results in leaf spot and stem cankers on young trees, especially around insect and other wounds.

Symptoms and signs: Infection starts on the leaves and young green tissue, causing leaf spots and bark lesions. Under humid conditions abundant white spore masses can be found in the leaf spots and stem lesions. Infection may result in shoot blight and stem cankers, characterized by sunken lesions and cracked bark, similar to that caused by hail damage.

Biology: The fungus requires high relative humidity for spore germination.

Management: Chemical sprays have been used successfully in nurseries.



(1) Young, developing leaf spots caused by *Q. eucalypti*, (2) leaf spots with white powdery spore masses, (3) Leaf and shoot blight with white spore masses, (4) Stem cankers on an *E. nitens* tree.