

Mini data sheet on *Cylindrocladium buxicola*

Added in 2004 - Deleted in 2008

Reasons for deletion:

The pest *Cylindrocladium buxicola* has been included in EPPO Alert List for more than 3 years and during this period no particular international action was requested by the EPPO member countries. In 2008, it was therefore considered that sufficient alert has been given and the pest was deleted from the Alert List.

Cylindrocladium buxicola (a new leaf and twig blight of *Buxus*)

Why	A new blight disease of <i>Buxus</i> species was observed in the 1990s in UK and in New Zealand. The causal agent was identified as a new fungal species <i>Cylindrocladium buxicola</i> . More recently, this disease has been found in other European countries.
Where	In UK, the disease was discovered in a nursery in Hampshire in late 1994. No new records were reported until 1997 when a sudden outbreak of the disease was noticed. Today, the disease is considered as widespread in UK. In New Zealand, the disease was first reported in 1998. Isolates collected from UK and New Zealand were compared, and it was found that they belonged to the same species (<i>C. buxicola</i>) and showed very little variation (suggesting that these derived from one clone). The origin of this new fungus remains unknown, but it is hypothesized that it has been introduced recently to Europe (and then to New Zealand). In autumn 2000, a similar disease of <i>Buxus</i> was observed in private gardens in Belgium, and <i>C. buxicola</i> was identified as the causal agent. Since then, more samples were received from other Belgian sites, nurseries and garden centres, indicating that the disease is spreading. EPPO region: Belgium (first found in 2000), France, Germany (first found in 2004/2005), UK (widespread throughout the country with an increasing incidence). Oceania: New Zealand.
On which plants	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> (especially cv. Suffruticosa), <i>B. microphylla</i> and <i>B. sinica</i> .
Damage	Symptoms of the disease are dark brown spots on the leaves which eventually coalesce to cover the whole leaf, black streaks on the stems and severe defoliation. Black streaks on the stems appear to progress from the bottom to the top of the plants. Apparently, no plant death has been recorded so far. <i>C. buxicola</i> is often found with a second pathogen <i>Pseudonectria rousselfiana</i> anamorph <i>Volutella buxi</i>) causing dieback, but the two diseases also occur independently.
Dissemination	More data is needed on the biology of the fungus. However, if it is similar to other <i>Cylindrocladium</i> species, it may produce resting spores and survive in fallen leaves. These resting spores could be spread by soil, water splashes, animals and gardeners.
Pathway	Plants for planting of <i>Buxus</i> , soil?
Possible risks	<i>Buxus</i> are commonly planted in European gardens (parterres, hedges, topiary work). Data is lacking on possible control methods. Pruning of infected twigs, and destruction of fallen leaves could help to reduce the inoculum. Apparently, no tree death is reported but the disease seriously affects the appearance of <i>Buxus</i> , a plant which is essentially used for ornamental purposes. The introduction of such a new disease could represent a threat to nurseries, parks and gardens.
Source(s)	Brand T (2005) [Occurrence of <i>Cylindrocladium buxicola</i> B. Henricot on boxwood in Northwest-Germany.]. <i>Nachrichtenblatt des Deutschen Pflanzenschutzdienstes</i> 12, 237-240 (in German). Crepel, C.; Inghelbrecht, S. (2003) First report of blight on <i>Buxus</i> spp. caused by <i>Cylindrocladium buxicola</i> in Belgium. <i>Plant disease</i> , 87(12), p 1539. EPPO (2007) Panel meeting on Phytosanitary Measures (2007-03-06/09). Henricot, B.; Culham, A. (2002) <i>Cylindrocladium buxicola</i> , a new species affecting <i>Buxus</i> spp., and its phylogenetic status. <i>Mycologia</i> , 94(6), 980-997. Henricot, B.; Pérez Sierra, A.; Prior, C. (2000) A new blight disease on <i>Buxus</i> in the UK caused by the fungus <i>Cylindrocladium buxicola</i> . <i>Plant Pathology</i> , 49, p 805.

Henricot B (2006) Box blight rampages onwards. *The Plantsman*, September, 153-157.

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Henricot, B. (2003) *Cylindrocladium buxicola*, a new fungal species causing blight on *Buxus* spp. and its phylogenetic status. Poster presented at the 8th International Congress of Plant Pathology, 2003-02-02/07, Christchurch, New Zealand.

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Royal Horticultural Society (UK). Research projects: plant pests and diseases.

http://www.rhs.org.uk/research/project_pandd.asp

EPPO RS 2004/123, 2006/204, 2007/045, 2007/107

Panel review date 2006-03

Entry date 2004-08