

Ramularia leaf spot of *Silene*

Background

Ramularia didymarioides has been found in a nursery in Melbourne, where it caused severe leaf spotting on potted plants of *Silene*.

This is the first record of *R. didymarioides* outside of Europe and central Asia.

R. didymarioides occurs in Europe and central Asia (Braun 1998) and has been recorded on the following genera in the Caryophyllaceae: *Lychnis*, *Silene* (including *Melandrium*) and *Viscaria* (Braun 1998).

The Victorian plants were imported from Holland in 2006 as cuttings. However, no propagation material has been on-sold from the affected plants, which have subsequently been destroyed.

In response to this detection, DPI's Plant Standards Branch compiled a list of nurseries growing *Silene* in Victoria and interstate for follow-up surveys. These surveys revealed no evidence of *R. didymarioides* in any of the nurseries.

The organism and disease have been declared exotic under the Plant Health and Plant Products Act 1995.

No market access issues exist, so there is no other legislation proposed.

Symptoms and management

The affected *Silene* plants were four months old and had necrotic leaf lesions covering ~10% of the leaf surface (Fig. 1).

The fungal spores are disseminated by water/wind dispersal and propagating material.

If you detect leaf spotting on any cultivar of *Silene*, *Gypsophila* or *Dianthus*, please submit a sample to DPI Plant Standards [phone (03) 9210 9390] for identification.



Fig 1: Leaf symptoms on *Silene* 2007



Fig 2: Affected *Silene* plants 2007

Reference

Braun, U. (1998) A monograph of *Circospora*, *Ramularia* and allied genera (phytopathogenic hyphomycetes. Vol.2.

To report suspect pests and diseases, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline:

1 800 084 881

For further information, visit the Plant Standards web page:

www.dpi.vic.gov.au/psb