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PINEWOOD NEMATODE SURVEYS PACIFIC AND YUKON REGION, 1990

C. Wood
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Based on examinations of nearly 2000 samples from recently dead or dying trees, potential vectors, logs, and low grade boards collected from throughout the Pacific and Yukon Region since 1980, this nematode remains extremely rare in forests in British Columbia and Yukon Territory.

The pinewood nematode has been recovered in the region only from five widely scattered and previously damaged trees, from one woodborer, Monochamus clamatus [= maculosus], and from a single mill. Nationally, more than 5000 insects have been processed and, while several genera of nematodes commonly associated with insects were obtained, the pinewood nematode was found in only one insect. This confirms that the pinewood nematode is not abundant in Canada, and that the incidence of damage in the forest is below the level of detection.

During 1990, additional sampling for the nematode emphasized hemlock and cedar. This was to obtain information to support a possible exemption of some species from the pending European ban of non-kiln dried lumber (involving more than \$600 million in export lumber annually from British Columbia). These species are not common hosts for Monochamus woodborers, the most common vector of pinewood nematode. Surveys focused on logs in dryland sorting yards, on stressed or dying forest trees, and lumber, particularly that with bark or insect damage. There was no evidence of the nematode in 319 extractions from both hosts.

More than 200 forest sites, 34 mills, and 19 log yards were sampled throughout the region in 1990. More than 100 trees, logs or boards were observed in each case, with the greatest emphasis on declining trees, older insect-infested trees or logs, and low grade boards. Of more than 785 samples extracted (658 logs, 104 boards and 23 potential insect vectors), only one sample, a woodborer-attacked white spruce log from Watson Lake, Yukon Territory, contained pinewood nematode. Along with the five previously infected trees and one adult Monochamus clamator, these are the only positive records in almost 2000 samples (0.03% incidence). Other nematodes, largely fungal feeders or insect parasites, were found in 28% of the wood samples and in 10% of the vectors.

The potential vectors, Monochamus spp., while widely distributed in the region, represent only 4% of the more than 12,000 records of collections from stem sections of conifers within the regional Forestry Canada, Forest Insect and Disease Survey Infobase.

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