

PINE NEEDLE CAST

Lophodermella concolor (Dearn.) Darker

DISTRIBUTION

Throughout range of its hosts in BC, particularly the southern interior.



Figure 214. Lion's tail appearance of foliage and stunted growth of infected tree.



Figure 215. Discoloured needles with indistinct fruiting bodies, note black spot fruiting bodies are caused by *Hendersonia pinicola*.

HOST SUSCEPTIBILITY:

Lodgepole pine; also reported on ponderosa and Scots pine. Infects trees of all ages, but is most damaging in young stands.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:

Needles infected the previous year turn reddish-brown in May or June. In July, needles become straw-coloured. Concurrently-formed fruiting structures are the same colour as the surrounding needle surface and are difficult to see. The diseased needles on previous years' growth are shed as the summer progresses and remaining new growth has a lion's tail appearance.

DAMAGE:

This disease can cause severe defoliation. The years following periods of moist summer weather are favourable for infection. Growth reduction and mortality may result after repeated epidemics, particularly in young trees.

SIMILAR DAMAGE:

Elytroderma needle cast symptoms are similar; however, the long, black, fruiting structures are very different from the small, inconspicuous, *Lophodermella* fruiting structures.

Other fungi often invade needles infected with *Lophodermella*, which may cause confusion regarding the fruiting structures. *Hendersonia pinicola* fruiting structures appear as small black spots.