

SPRUCE NEEDLE CAST

DFD

Lirula macrospora (Hartig) Darker

DISTRIBUTION

Throughout the range of spruce in BC.

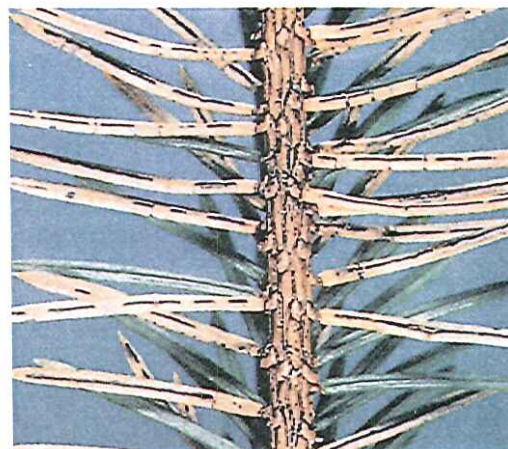


Figure 201. Black elongated fruiting bodies. Killed needles are retained.

HOST SUSCEPTIBILITY:

All ages of all native spruce.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:

This pathogen has a two-year life cycle. Infected needles become straw or brown-coloured and die. Killed needles remain on twigs longer than naturally senescent needles. Elongate, black fruiting bodies are found on dead needles. Spruce needle cast becomes infectious to spruce every second year; therefore, tree foliage may have every second year's growth affected. Infections are more common in the lower crown.

DAMAGE:

Successive years of severe infection may cause growth reduction; however, this is uncommon. Usually, there is only localized damage. Mortality seldom occurs.



Figure 202. Spruce needle cast infection of previous year's growth.