

Gefördert durch:



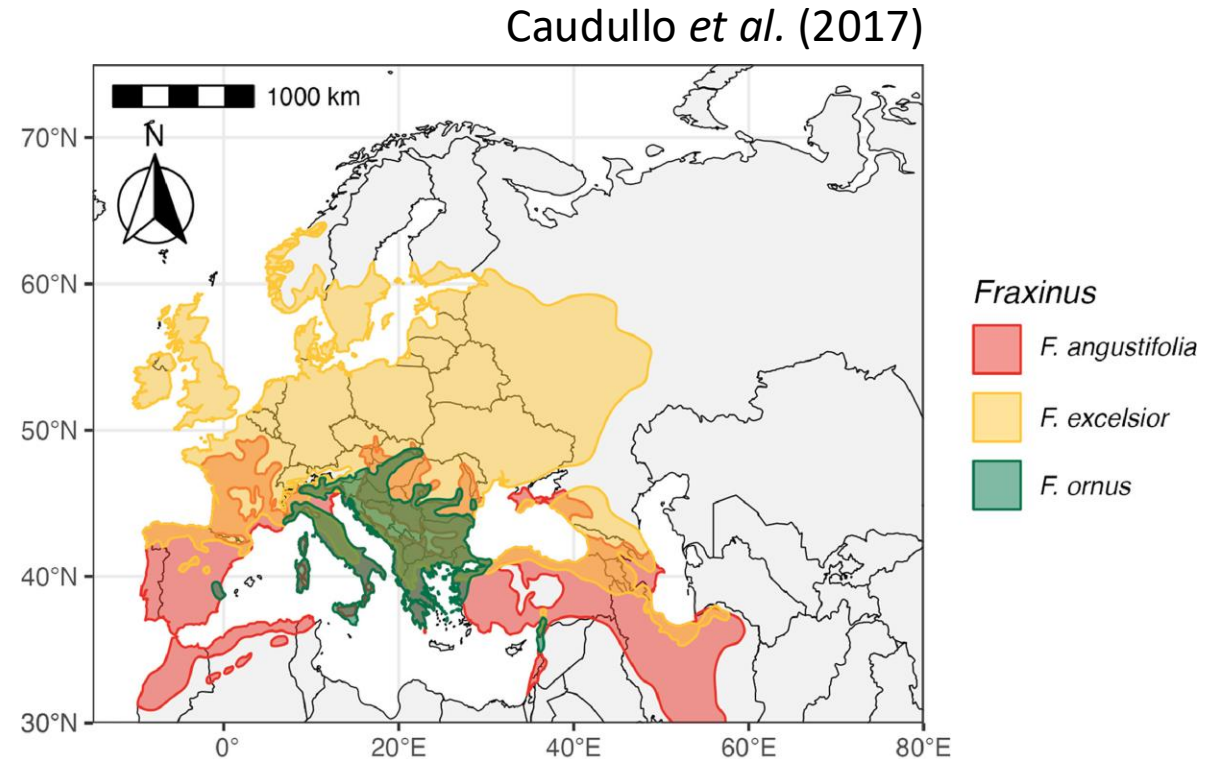
Bundesministerium
für Ernährung
und Landwirtschaft

Bundesministerium
für Umwelt, Naturschutz
und nukleare Sicherheit

aufgrund eines Beschlusses des Deutschen Bundestages

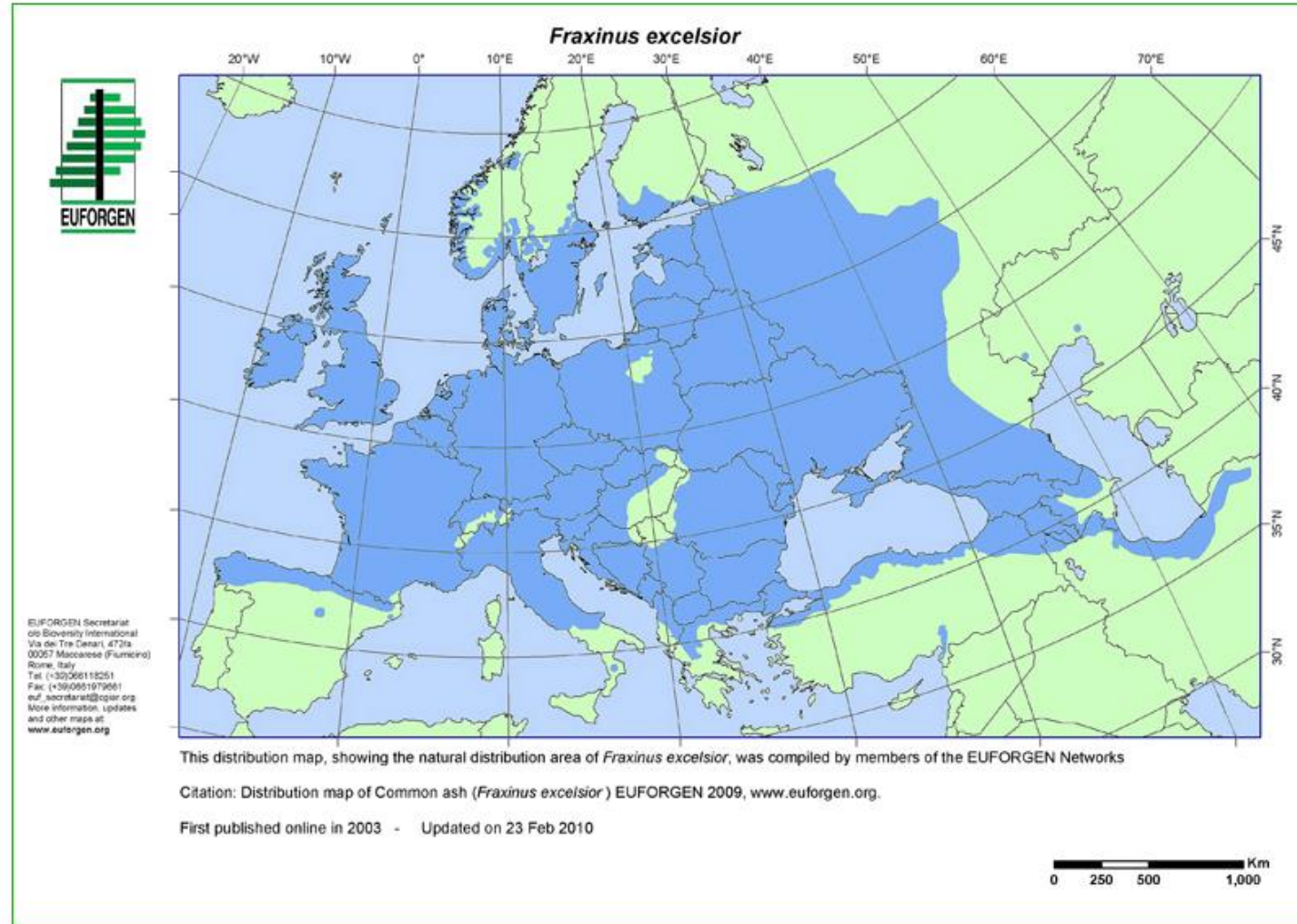
Major ash species in Europe

- **European Ash (*F. excelsior*)**
- Narrow-leaved ash (*F. angustifolia*)
- Manna/ flowering ash (*F. ornus*)
- Exotic green ash (*F. pennsylvanica*)



While the ranges of ash species overlap in Europe, *F. excelsior* is dominant.

F. excelsior - an important tree in Europe



Source: Zelimir Borzan

F. excelsior - an important tree in Europe



Source: Wikipedia

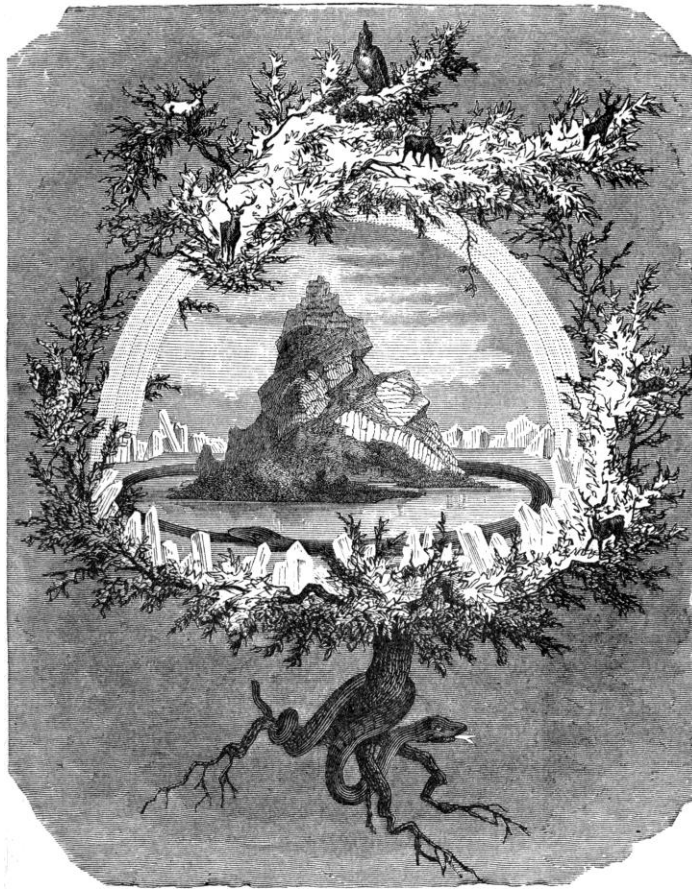
The European ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)

The European ash is an important tree in woodland, hedgerows, riverbanks, commercial forestry and urban areas.

It was the second or third most frequent deciduous tree species in Central Europe., accounting for approx. 1% of the forests

In Germany, it is estimated that it comprised 2.4% of forest area (250,000 ha), or 74.7 million solid cubic meters (2001/2002).

F. excelsior as a cultural legacy



Yggdrasil

In Norse mythology, ash was the **tree of life, Yggdrasil**, which harboured all the life in the universe. Moreover, the first human was created from ash wood by Oden.

- Often appears in old literature, artwork and poetry
- Historically used for weapons, tools, cart wheels...
- Popular ornamental tree (parks, gardens, hedges)



“Omens”, which guided actions and decisions.



Hurley stick, hurling ball

F. excelsior as an ecological species

- Ash trees are found in on marginal lands
 - Calcareous soils, floodplain forests and ravine forests
- Therefore, provides important ecosystem services
 - Especially in already compromised flood plain forests
- There are > **1000 known associated species**
 - approx. 150 are obligate or highly-associated species
 - these species include fungi, invertebrates, lichens...
 - ... as well as wood mice, squirrels, birds and bats...
 - ... and the scarce fritillary (*Euphydryas maturna*)

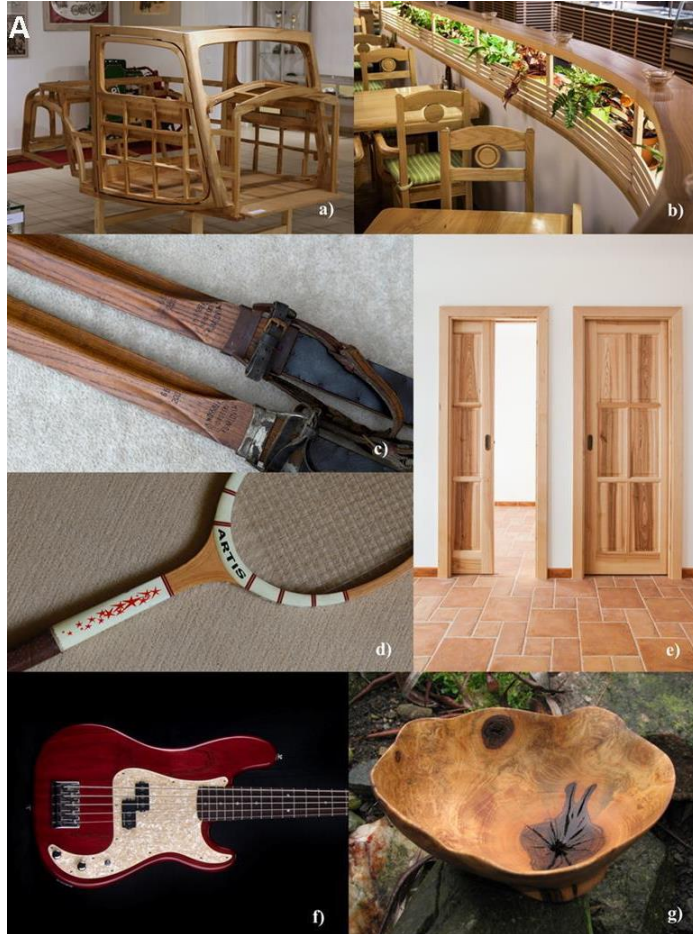


Euphydryas maturna

Source: Wikipedia

Mitchell *et al.* (2014); Hultberg *et al.* (2020)

F. excelsior as a commercial species



Tree characteristics

- Relatively fast growing
- High regeneration potential
- Drought resistant (climate change)

Wood as a commercial material

- Excellent wood properties (hard but elastic)
- Commonly used for tool handles, high quality furniture, sports equipment, musical instruments, veneer, flooring

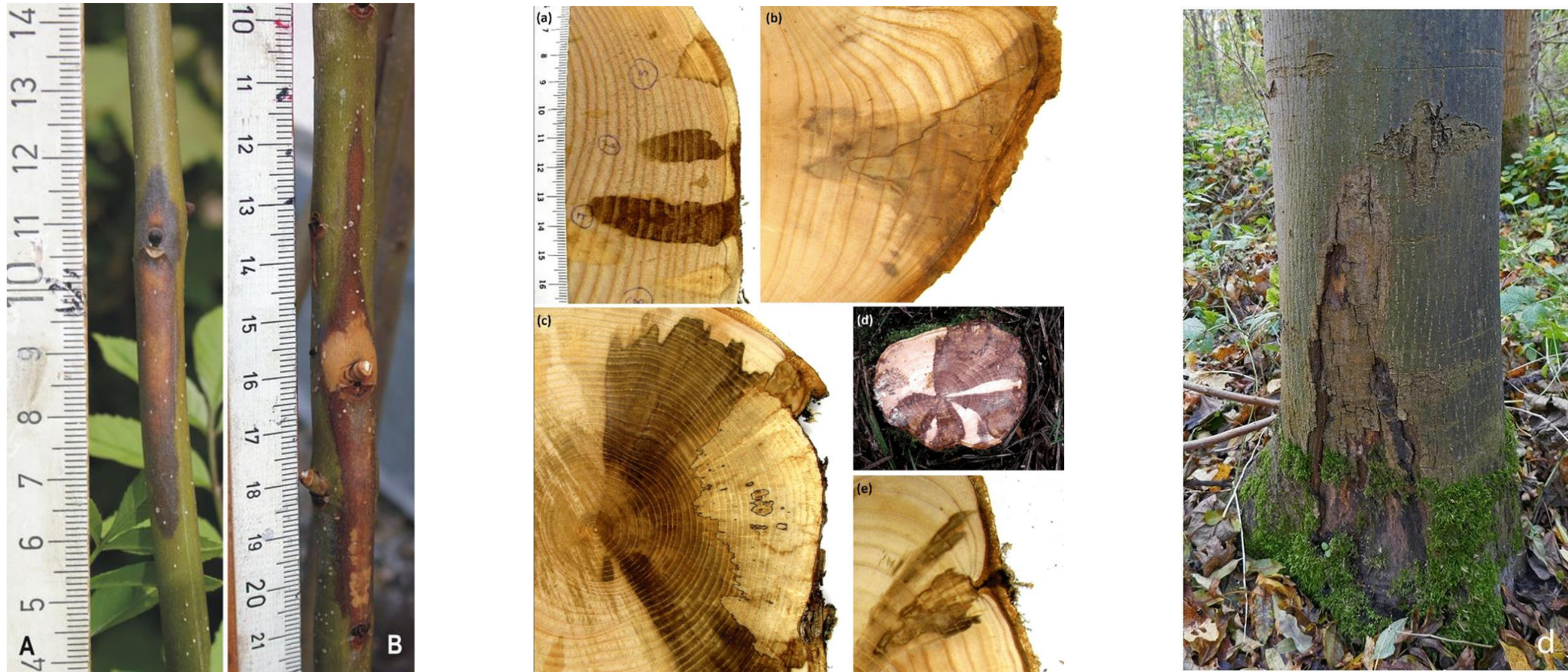
Source: Rozsypalek *et al.* (2017)

New devastating disease



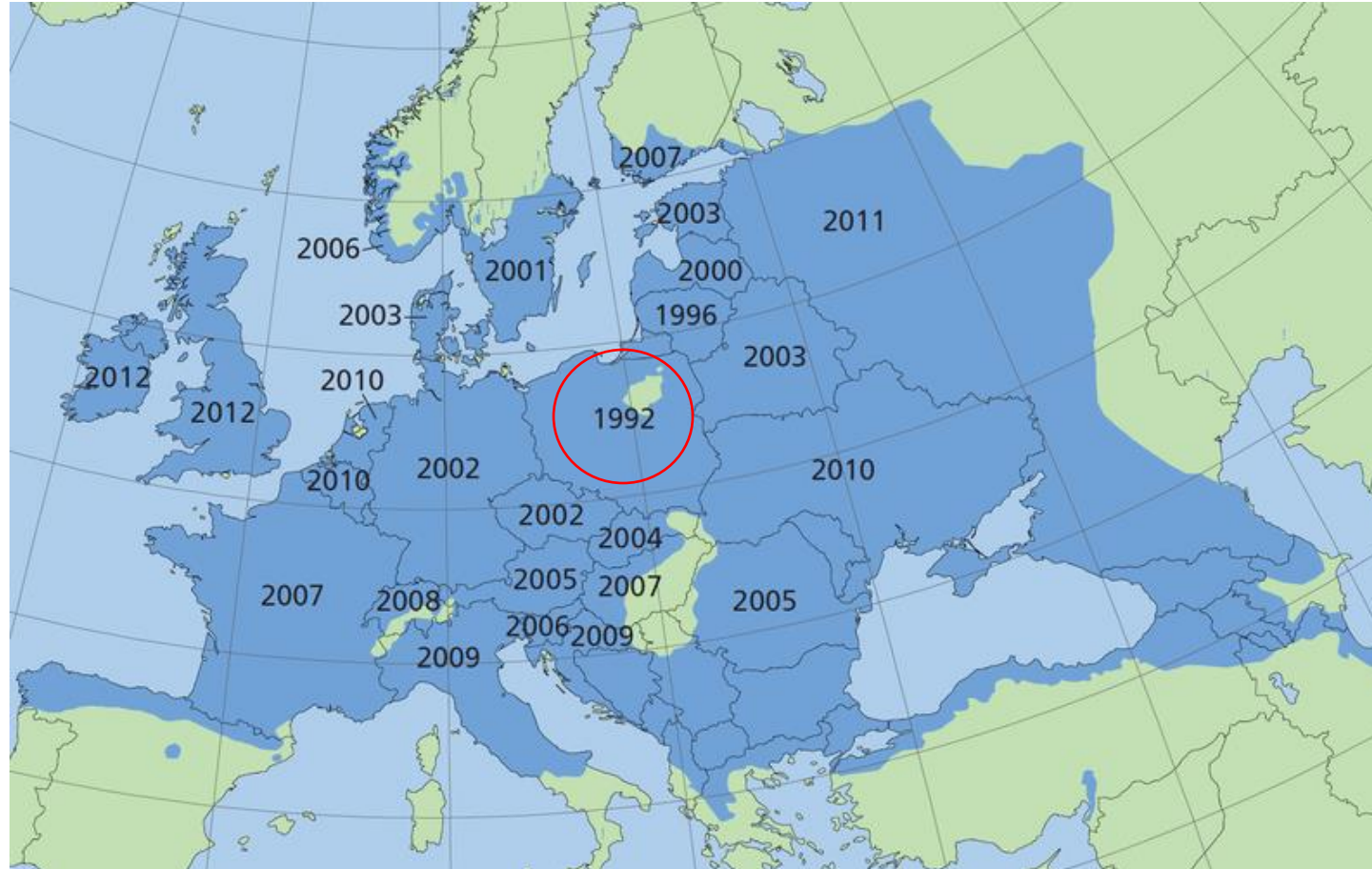
Images of crown defoliation and crown dieback in mature ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*)

New devastating disease



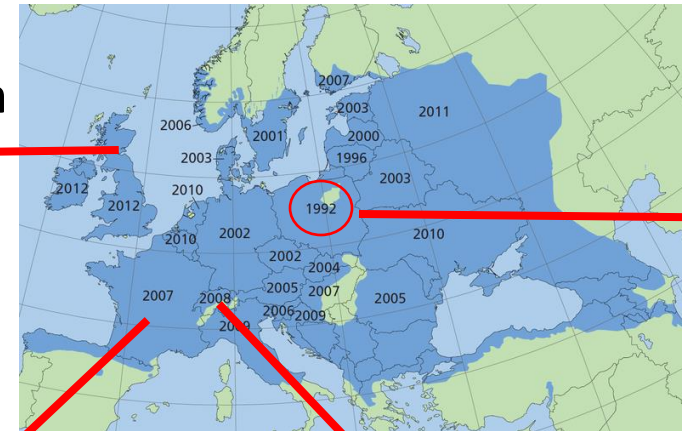
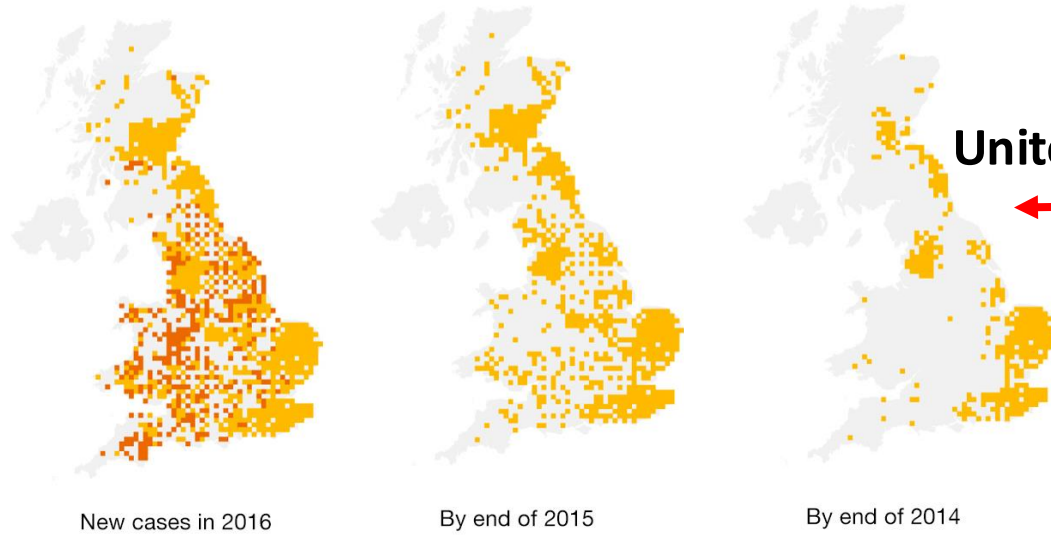
Necrotic lesion on stem of saplings (A, B); overview of differently developed collar necroses on investigated stem discs (a, b, c, d, e); and stem collar necrosis / rot (d)

Spread of Disease in Europe

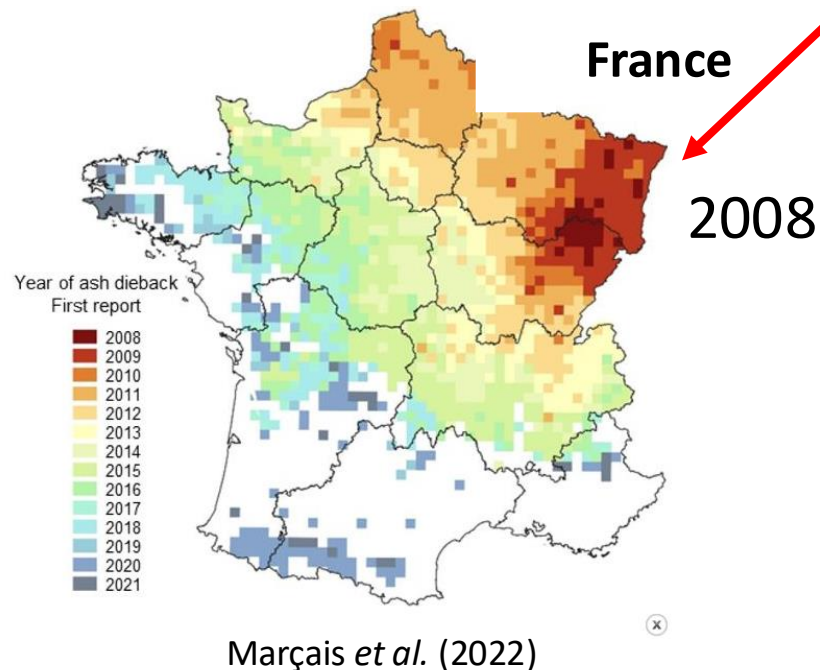


The disease was first detected in Europe in 1992 in Poland. The year when ash dieback was observed is given for each country. In blue: The natural range of *F. excelsior* (© EUFORGEN).

The disease spread rapidly across Europe

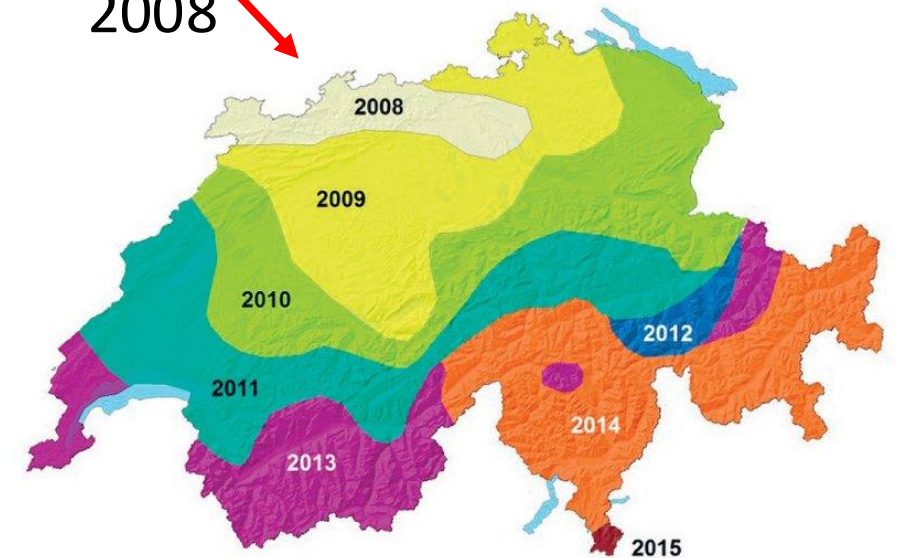


First detected in
Poland in 1992



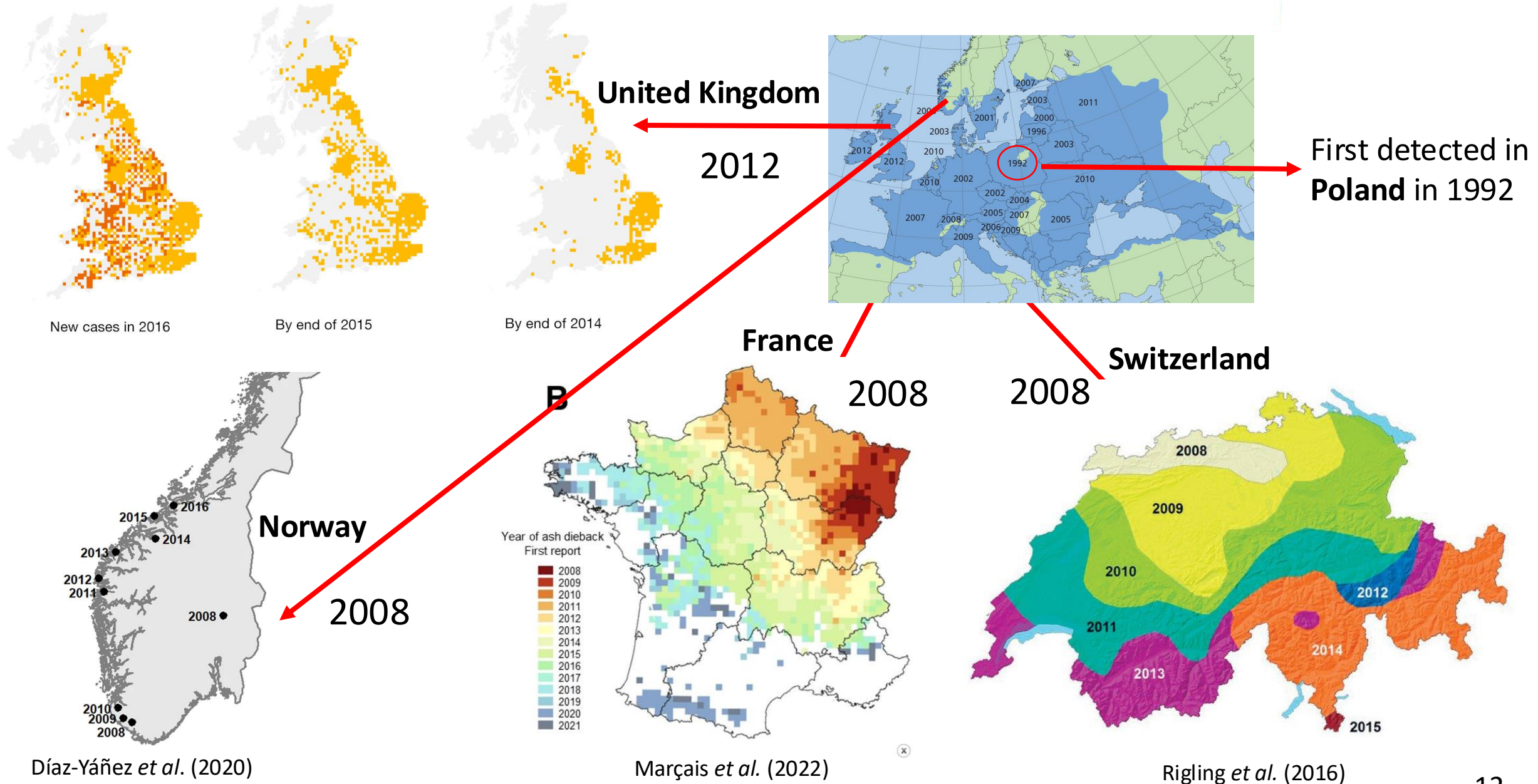
Switzerland

2008



11 Rigling *et al.* (2016)

The disease spread rapidly across Europe



What is causal agent of the disease?



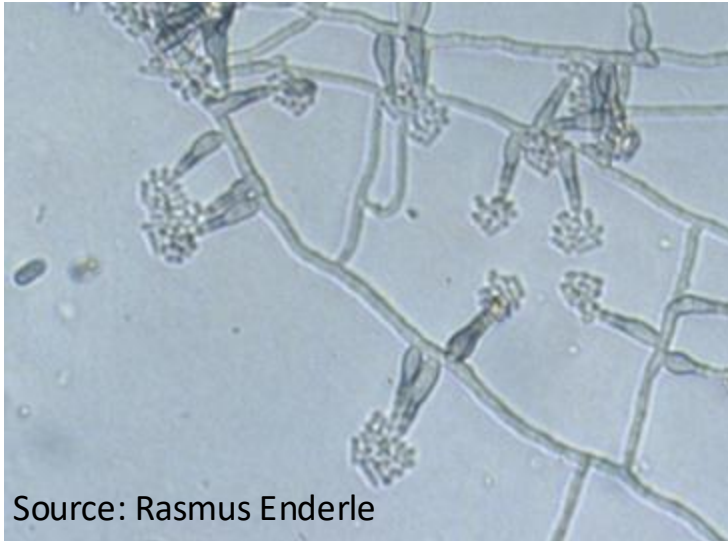
Source: Rasmus Enderle



Source: Baral *et al.* (2014)

- In 2006, the anamorph (asexual reproductive stage) is identified and named ***Chalara fraxinea* sp. nov.**
- In 2009, the teleomorph (sexual reproductive state) is tentatively identified as ***Hymenoscyphus albidus*.**
- However, ***H. albidus*** is widespread in Europe, had **never** been reported to be pathogenic in plants.

What is causal agent of the disease?



- Then, reclassified as a cryptic species: *H. pseudoalbidus*
- *H. pseudoalbidus* exhibits a **distinct morphology, mating system** and is **genetically divergent** from *H. albidus*
 - > *H. pseudoalbidus* is classified as a separate species
- In 2014, it was renamed as ***Hymenoscyphus fraxineus***

Introduction of an exotic fungus

Manchurian ash (*F. mandshurica*) is host to a saprotrophic fungus, called *H. fraxineus*



Natural distribution of *F. mandshurica* in Asia (see shaded area)



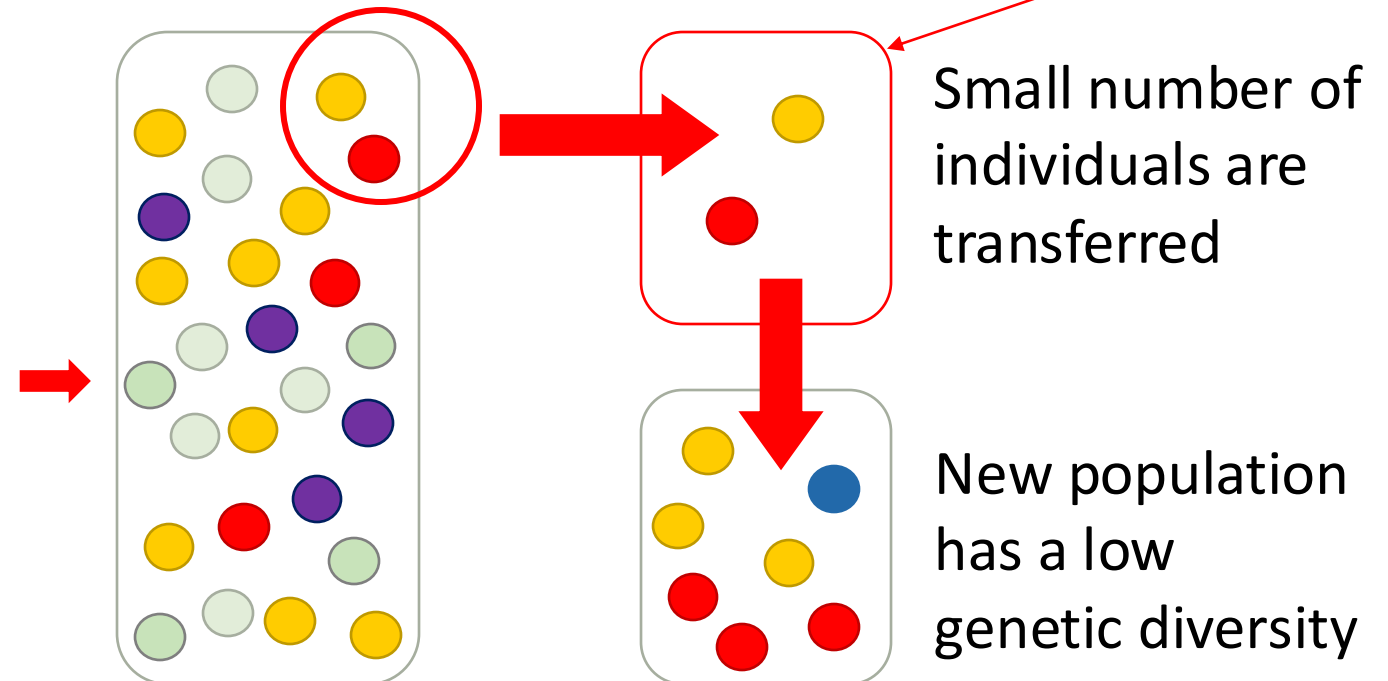
Manchurian ash (*F. mandshurica*)

Introduction of an exotic fungus

High genetic diversity of fungus in Asia



Founder effect



The invasion was founded by **two** divergent individuals (McMullan *et al.* 2018)

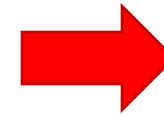
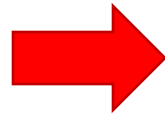
Introduction of an exotic fungus

Globilisation: Plant trade

Saprotrophic fungus



H. fraxineus



Host jump to naïve host



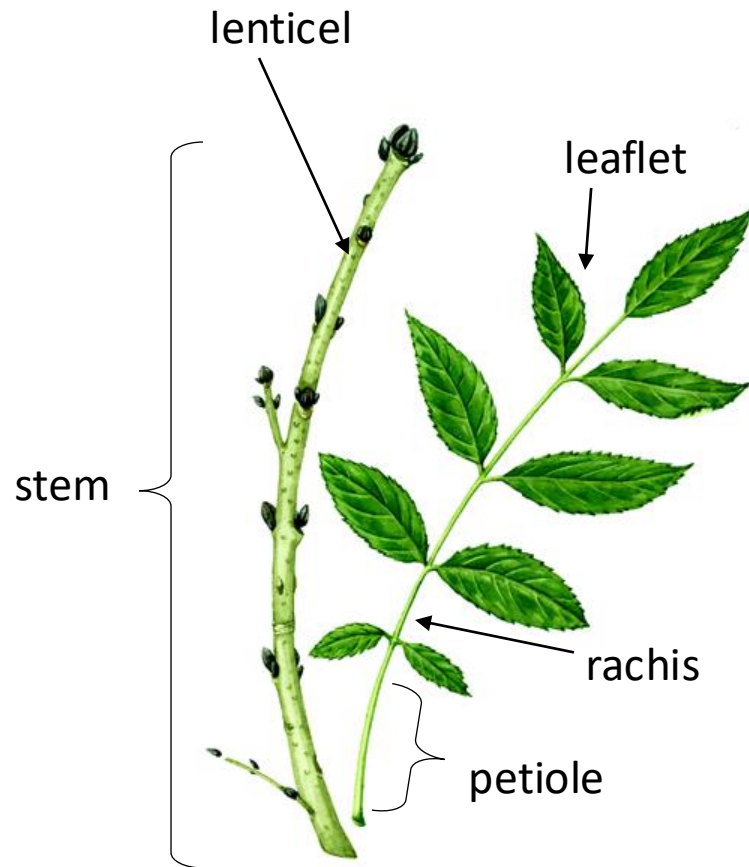
European ash (*F. excelsior*)

It is possibly introduced in **nursery stock of Manchurian ash** from Asia into Europe. Successfully colonises the European ash (*F. excelsior*), a **novel and naïve host** in Europe.

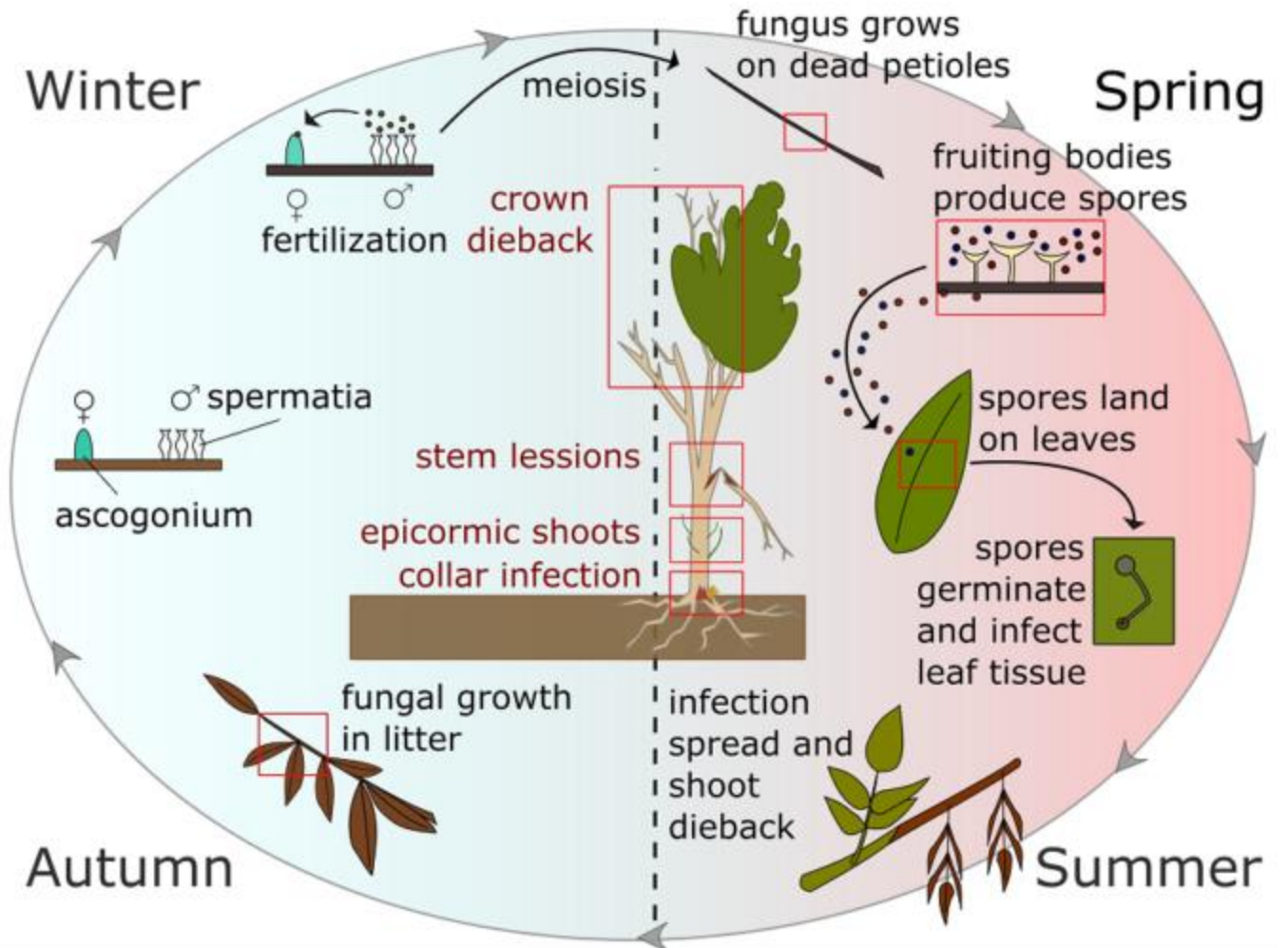
Symptoms



Life cycle of *H. fraxineus*

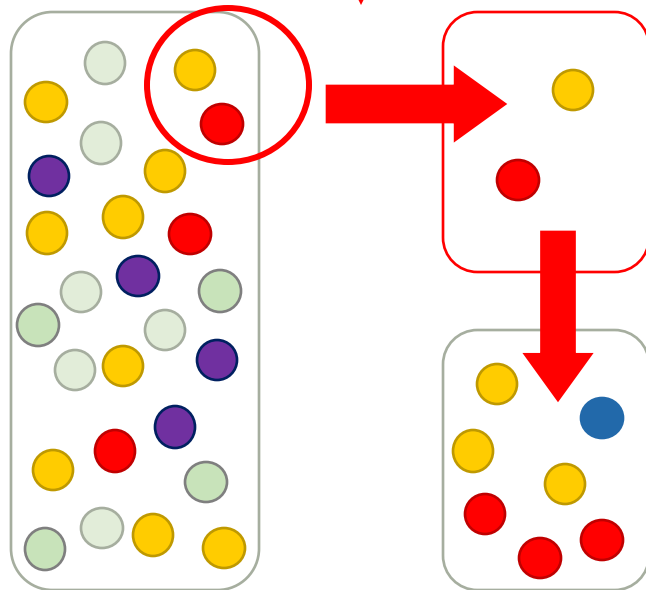


fruiting bodies on a fallen petiole



Summary

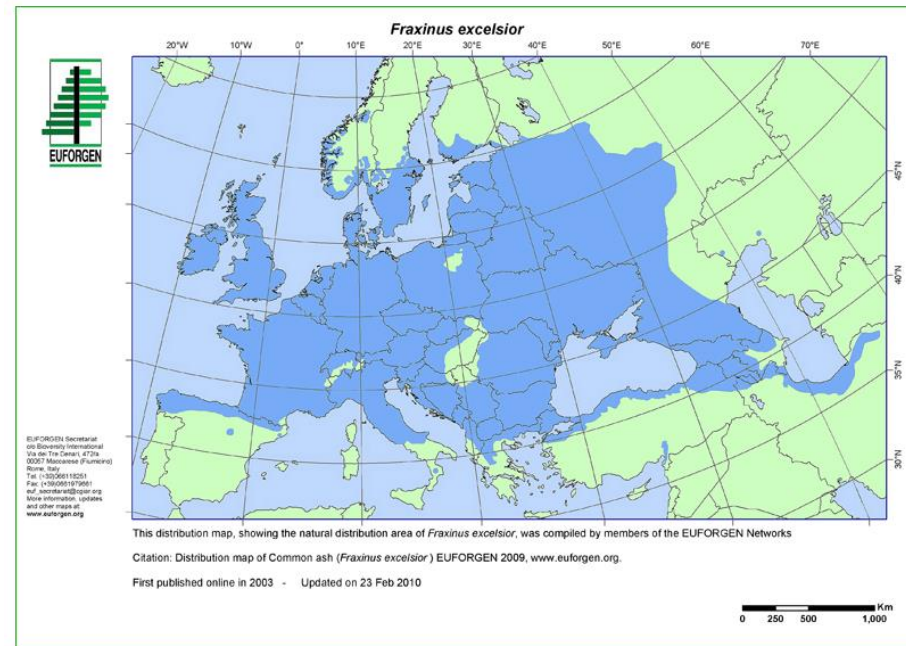
Loss of genetic diversity



Asia

Europe

New environmental range



Novel host species

European ash

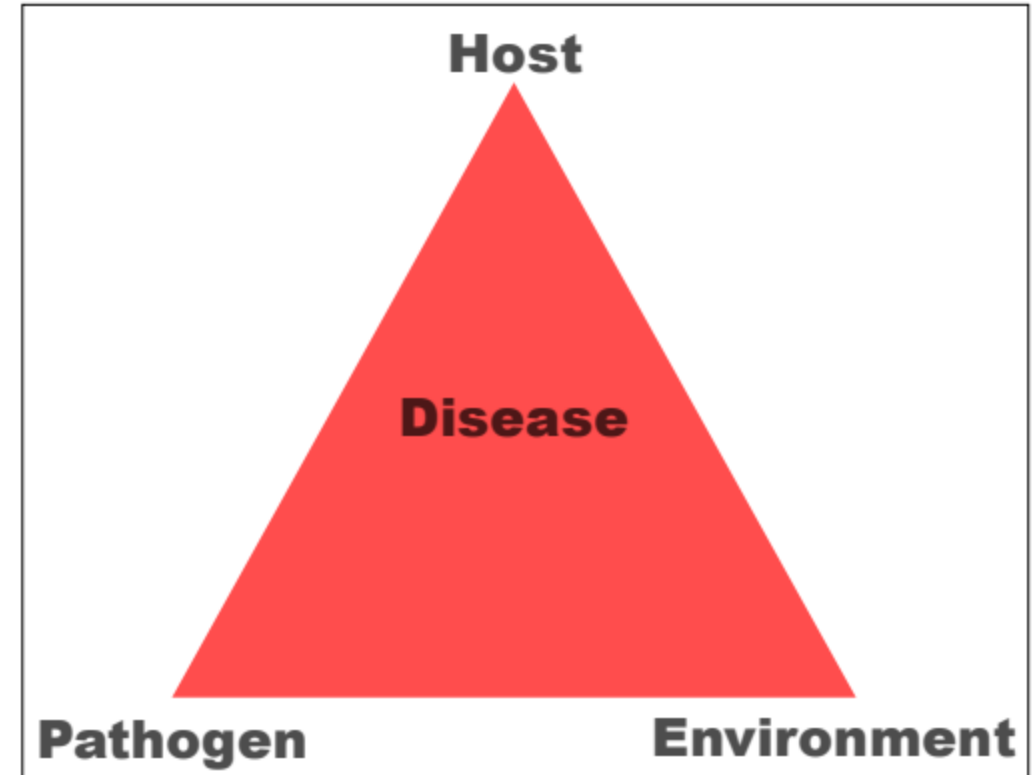


Source: Wikipedia

The Disease Triangle

An epidemic requires:

- (i) a virulent pathogen with a high reproduction rate
-> ***H. fraxineus***
- (ii) an accumulation of susceptible host
-> **European ash**
- (iii) suitable environmental conditions for the pathogen
-> **Central Europe**

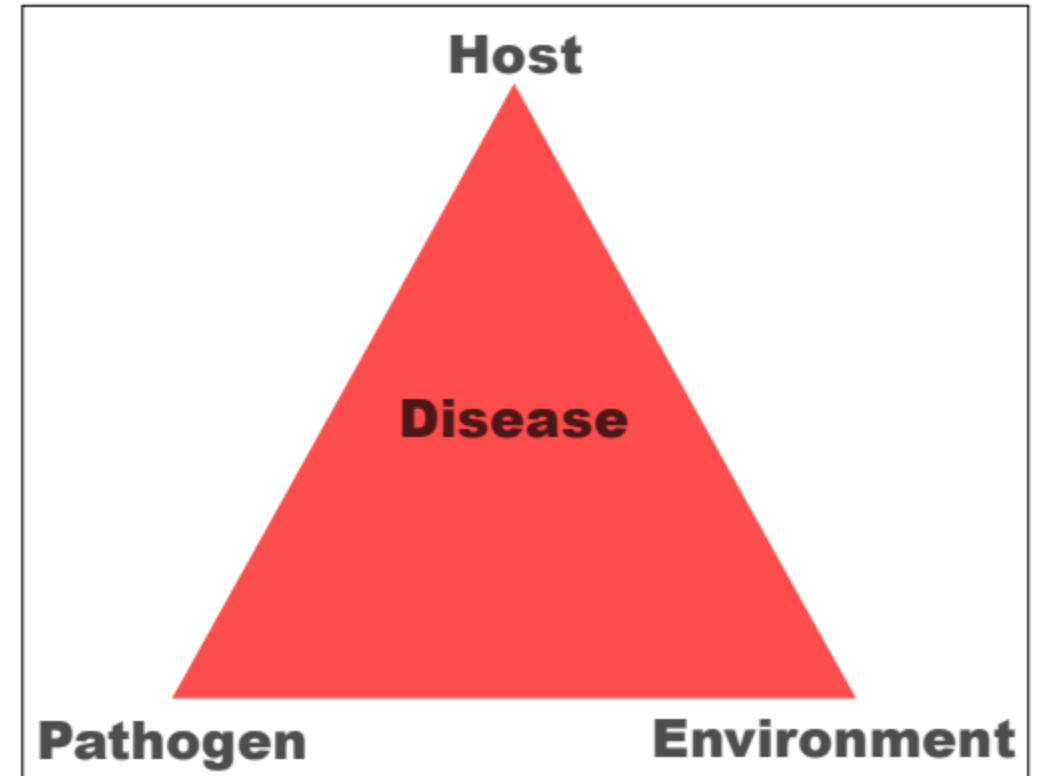


Source: <https://www.ncforestservice.gov/>

The Disease Triangle

An epidemic requires:

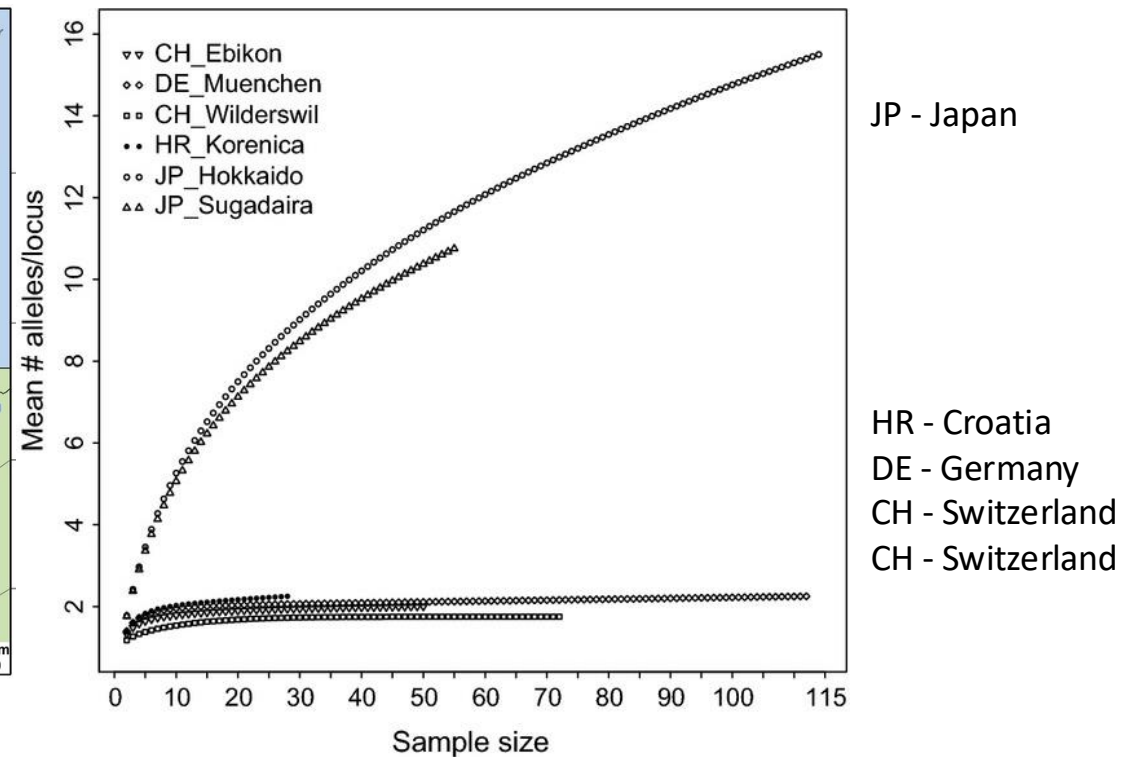
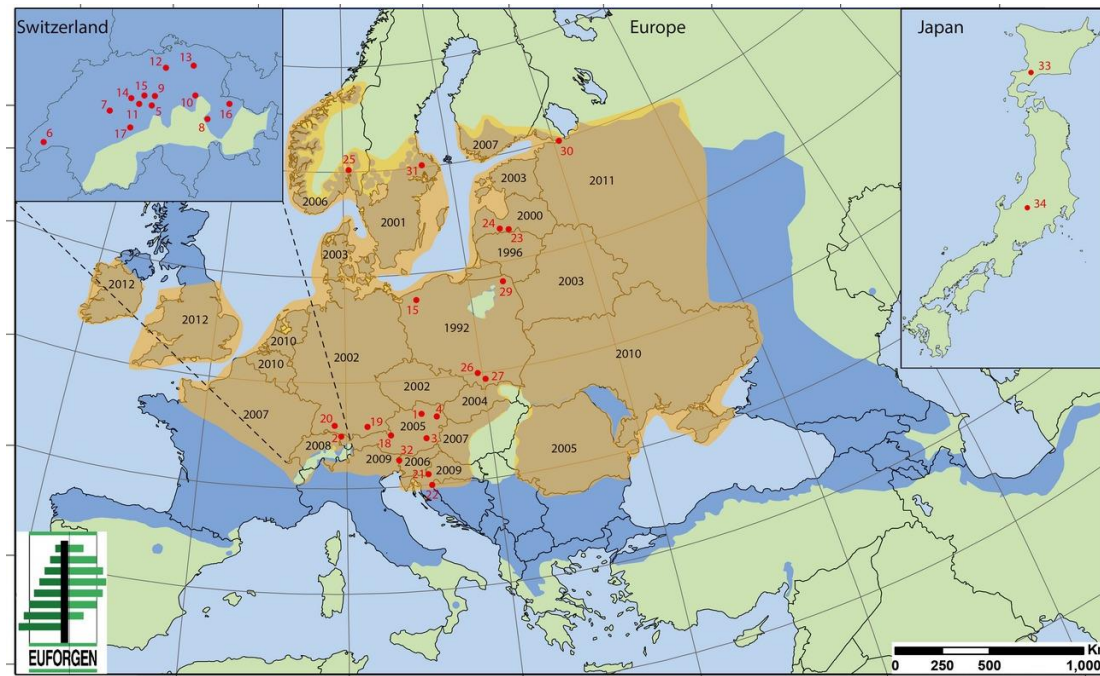
- (i) a virulent pathogen with a high reproduction rate
-> ***H. fraxineus***
- (ii) an accumulation of susceptible host
-> European ash
- (iii) suitable environmental conditions for the pathogen
-> Central Europe



Source: <https://www.ncforestservice.gov/>

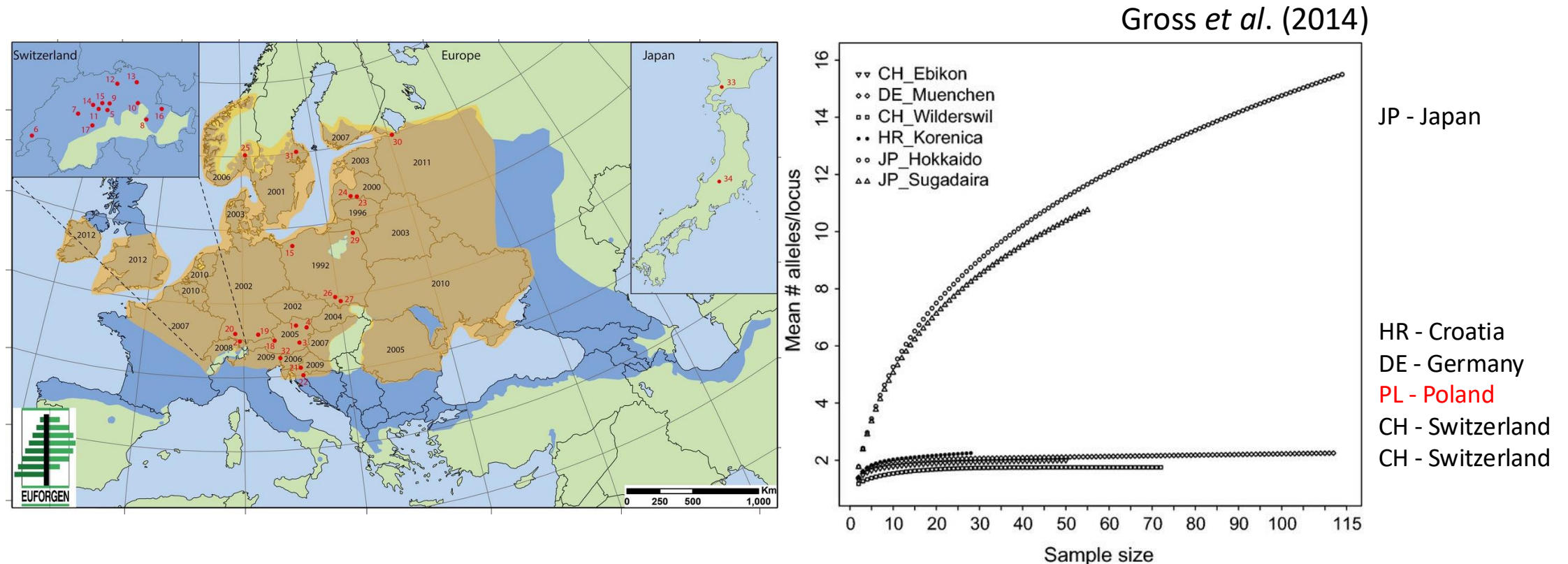
Genetic diversity of *H. fraxineus*

Gross *et al.* (2014)



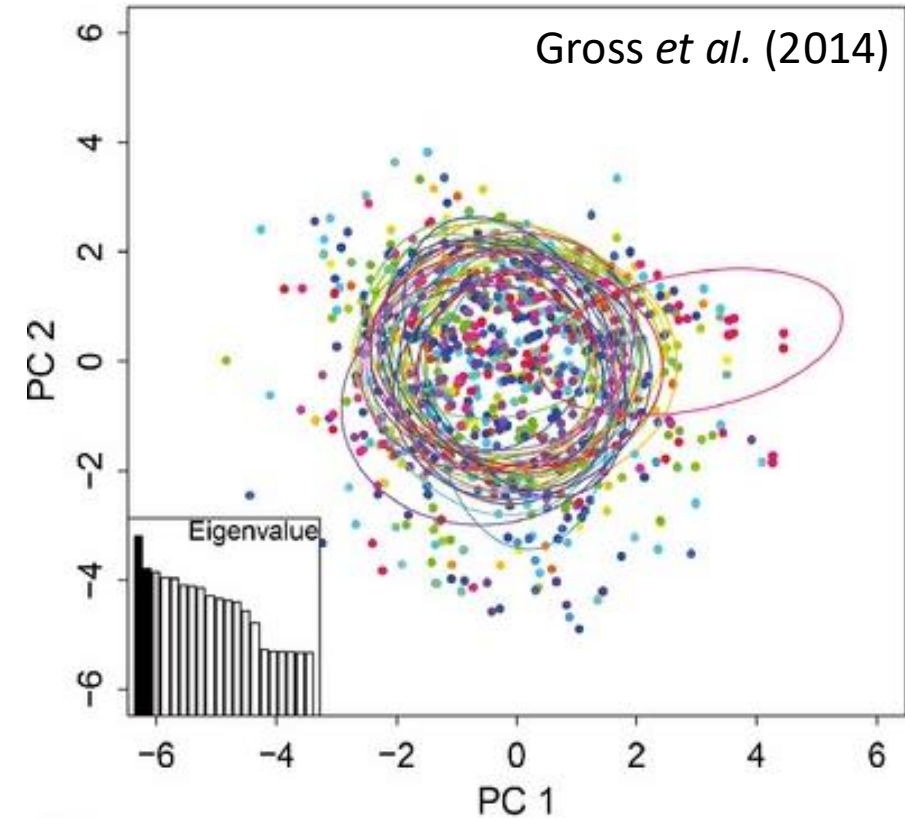
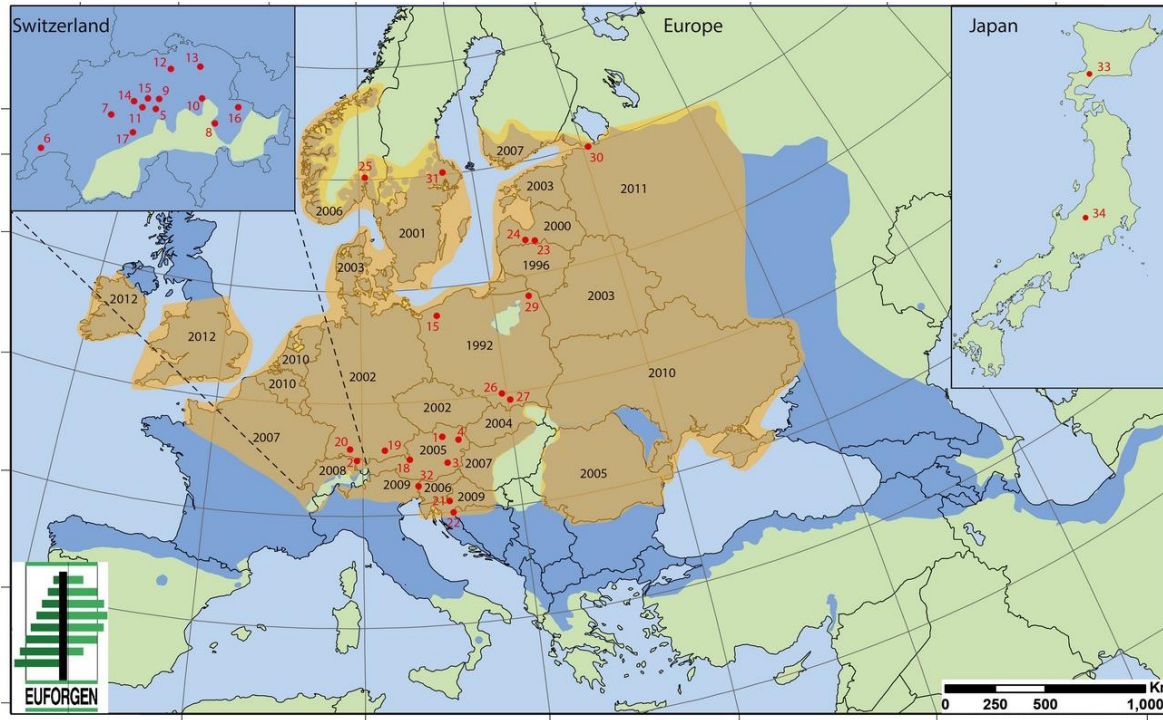
Genetic diversity is higher in Japan than in Europe, as expected (Gross *et al.* 2014).

Genetic diversity of *H. fraxineus*



- Genetic diversity of the fungus was **low in Poland, where the disease was first detected**
- From there, the genetic diversity increased slightly in a westwards direction
- But, it was **also lower at the epidemic's front** in Switzerland (CH).

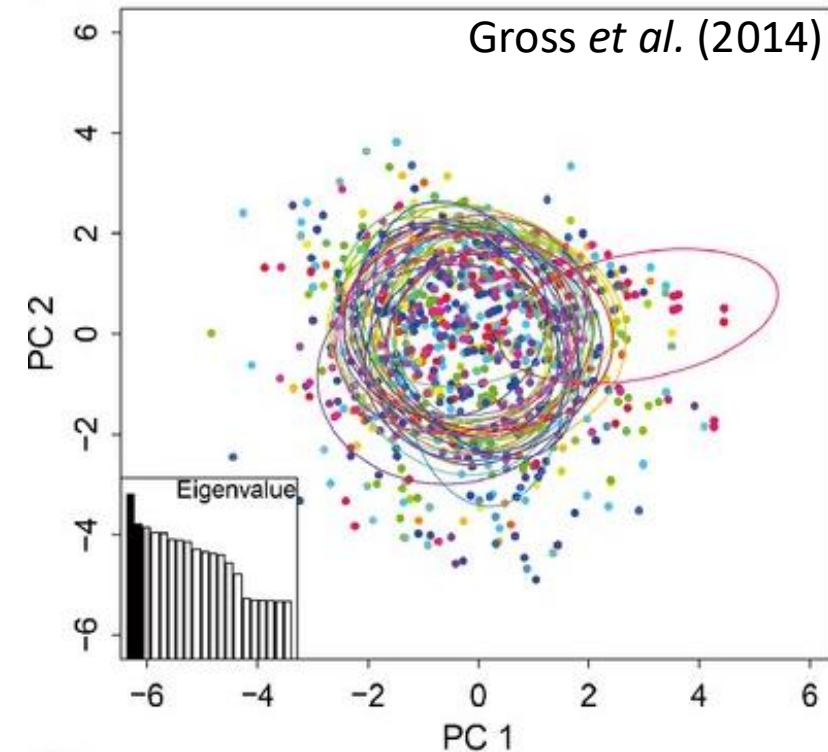
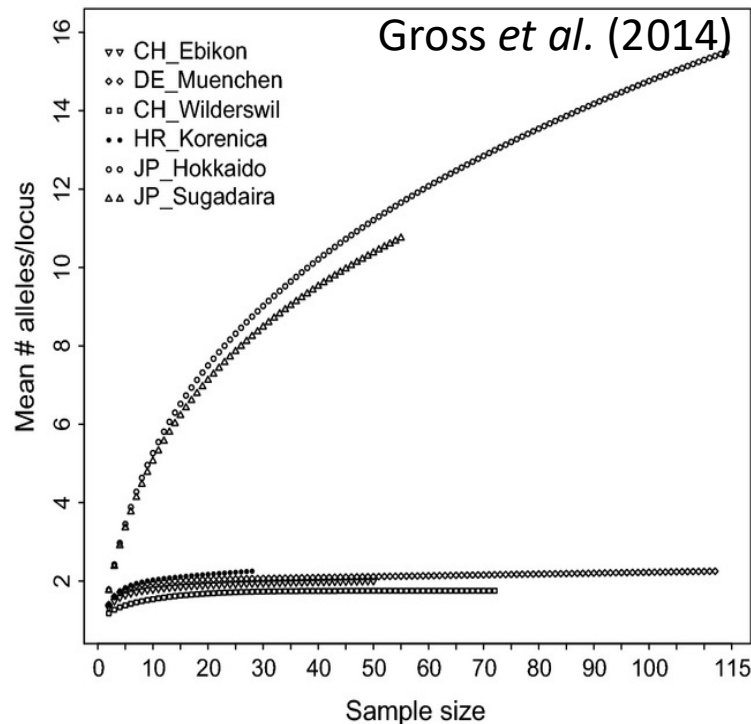
Genetic diversity of *H. fraxineus*



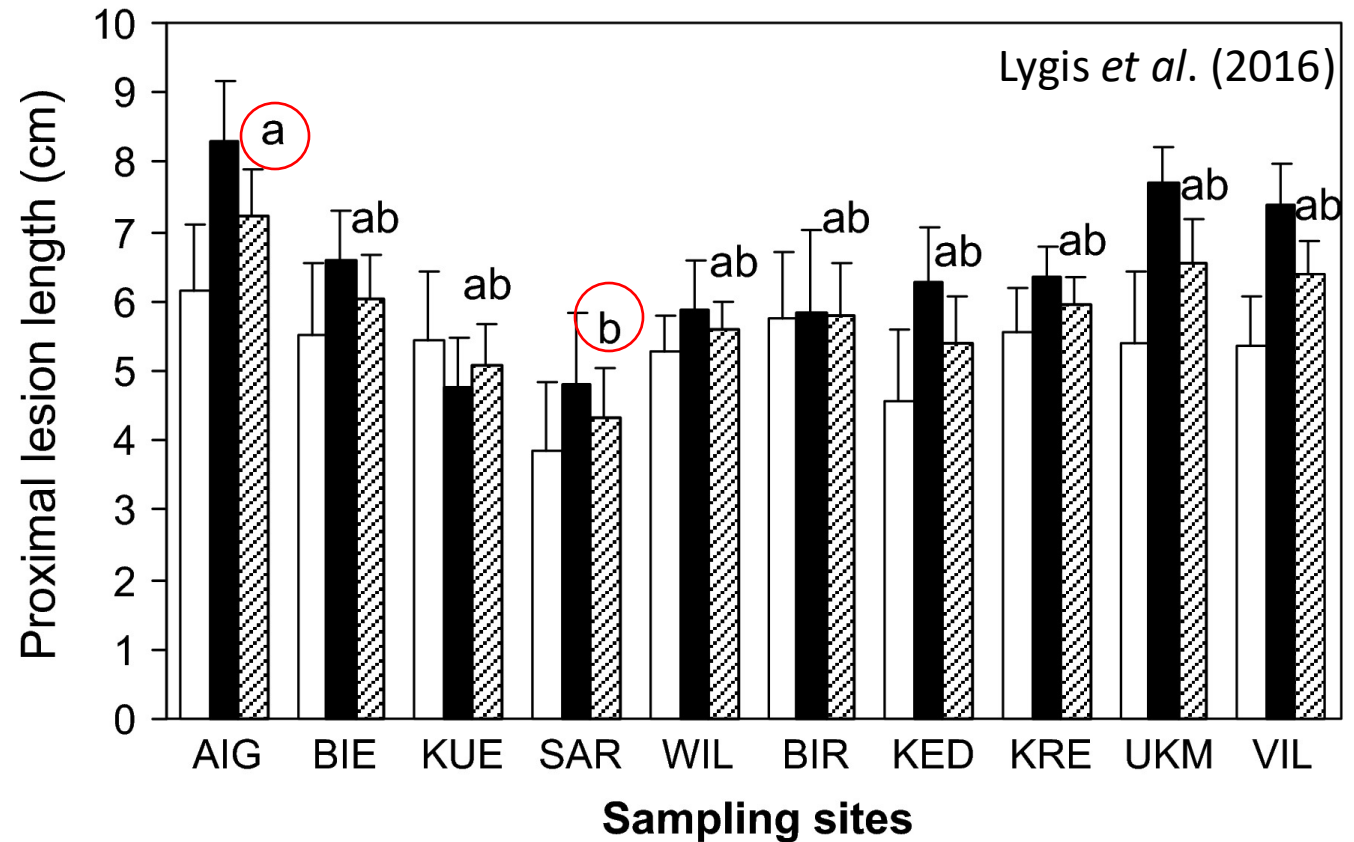
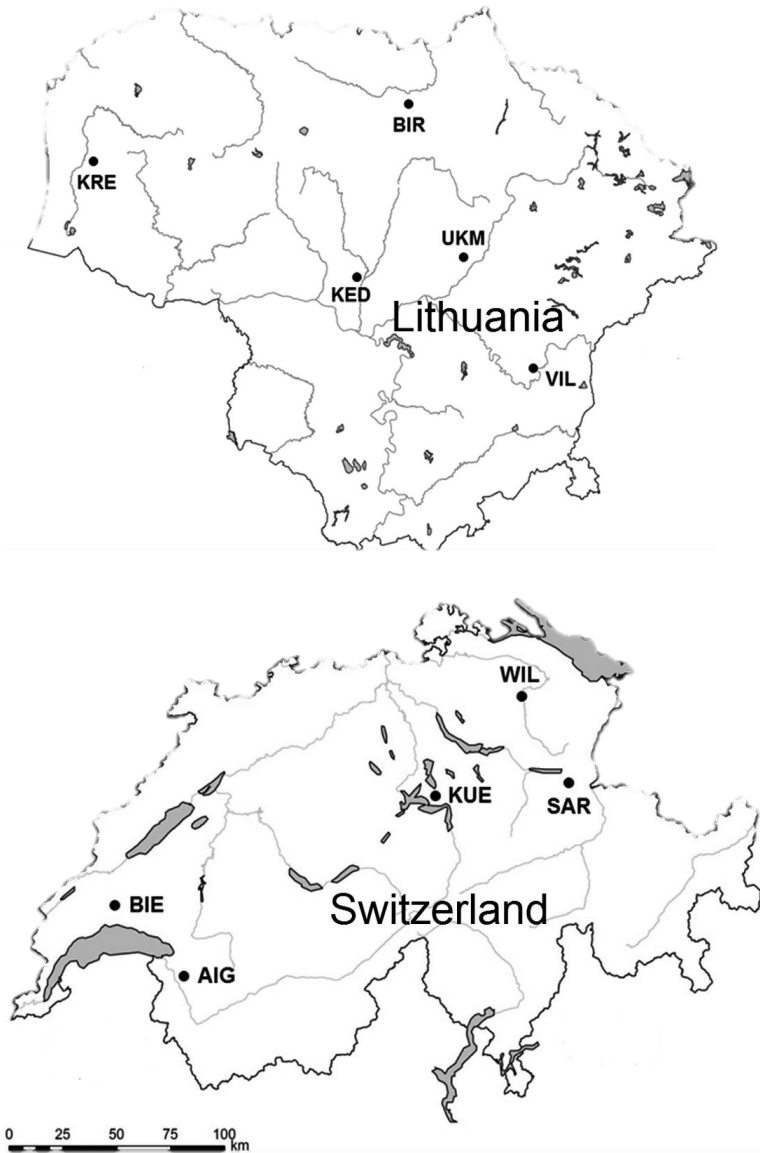
No evident population structure was found in Europe (Gross *et al.* 2014).

Virulence of *H. fraxineus*

Despite **low genetic variation** and **high frequency of genetic admixture**, large differences in virulence are observed in infection experiments...

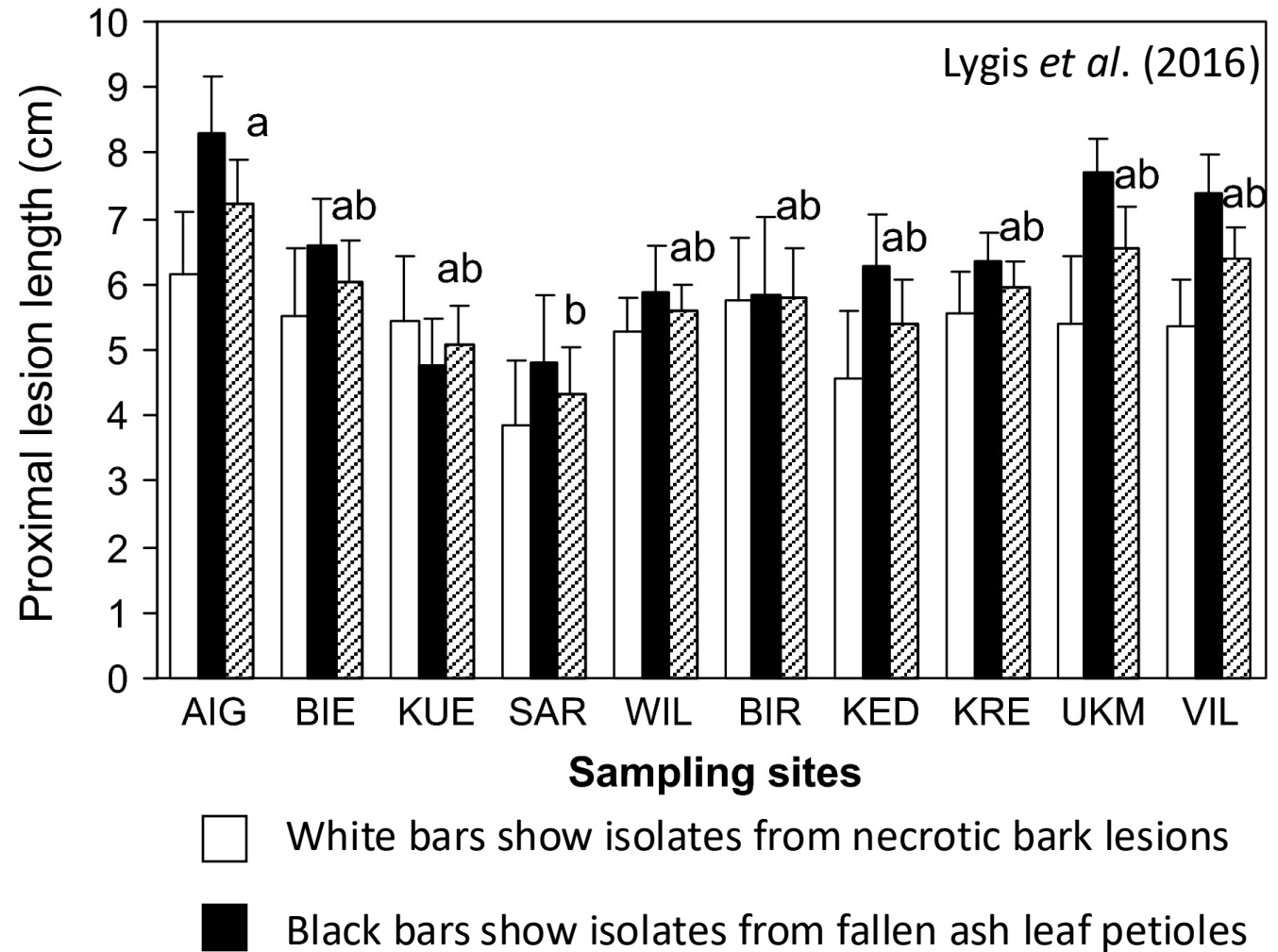
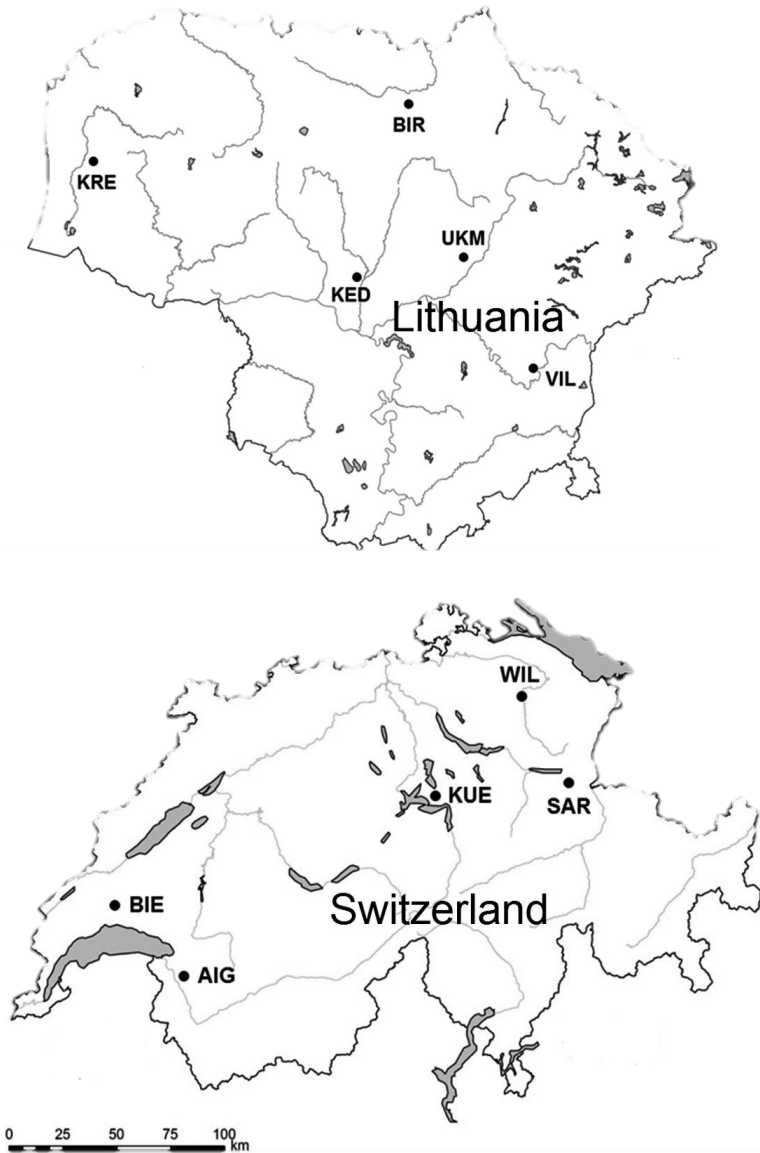


Virulence of *H. fraxineus* in Europe

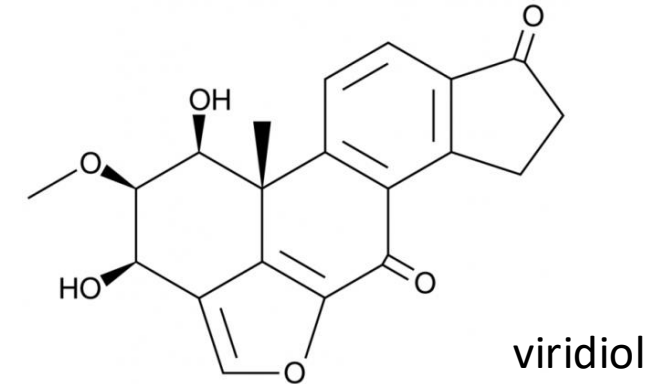


Hatched bars show the mean lesion length for all the isolates combined.

Virulence of *H. fraxineus* in Europe



Virulence of *H. fraxineus*



Many plant pathogens use toxins to attack host cells

- Viridiol has phytotoxic effects on ash seedlings
 - **However, high production is also observed in non-pathogenic *H. albidus***
- Polyphenoloxidases are involved in lignin degradation during infection
 - **However, the same is true for the non-pathogenic *H. albidus***

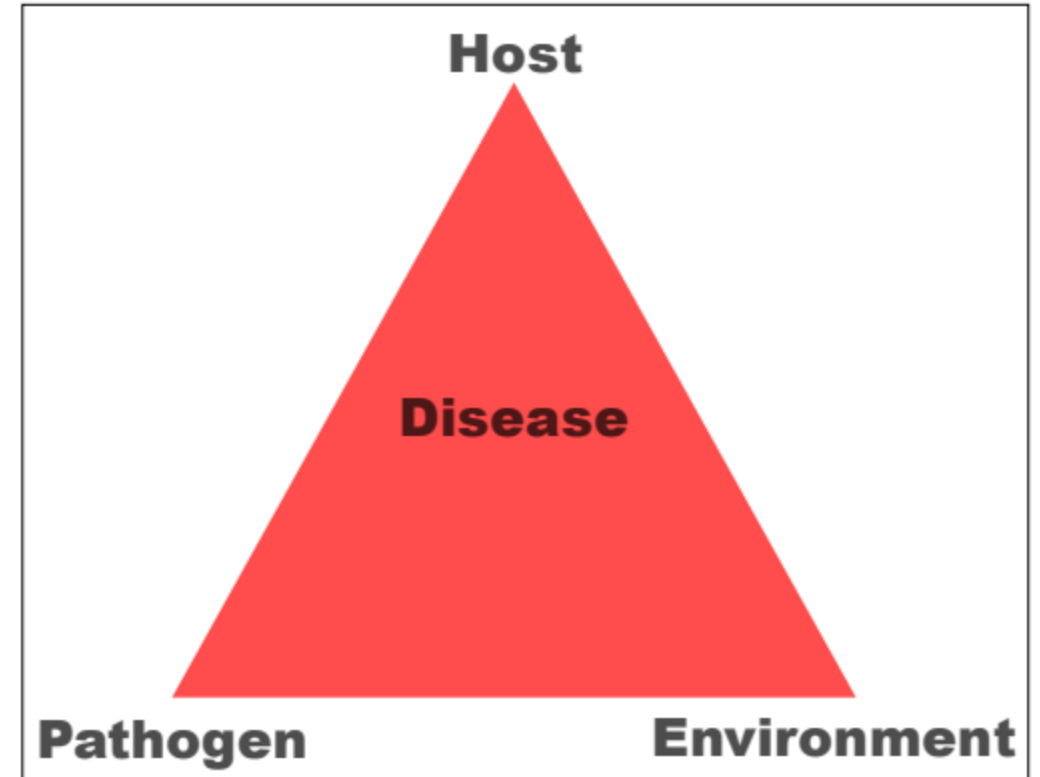
On susceptible exotic hosts the necrotrophic behaviour is seemingly accentuated.

- **The mechanism driving this shift in behaviour is still unknown.**

The Disease Triangle

An epidemic requires:

- (i) a virulent pathogen with a high reproduction rate
-> *H. fraxineus*
- (ii) an accumulation of susceptible host
-> **European ash**
- (iii) suitable environmental conditions for the pathogen
-> Central Europe



Source: <https://www.ncforestservice.gov/>

Susceptibility of the host, *F. excelsior*

The European ash was the second or third most frequent deciduous tree species in Central Europe, accounting for approx. 1% of forests.

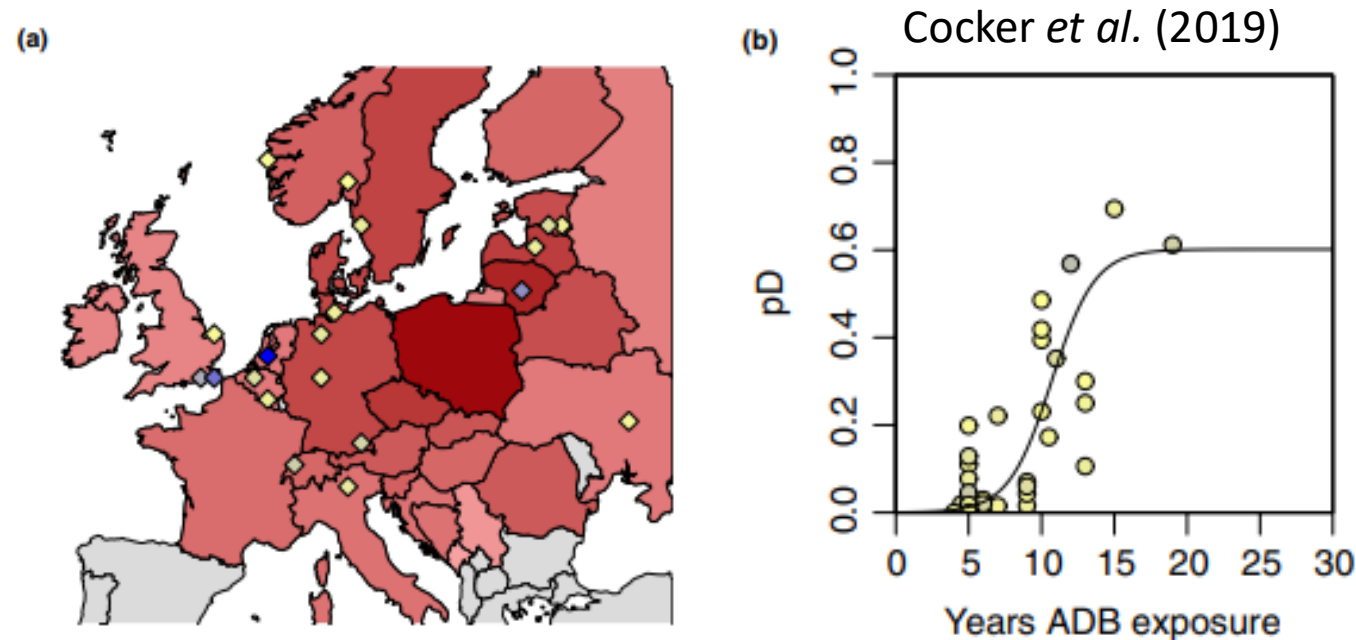
There is high susceptibility in European ash genotypes

- approx. **95% of trees are considered susceptible**, showing significant symptoms and mortality



Susceptibility of the host, *F. excelsior*

No site had 100% mortality, even after 20 years of disease presence.

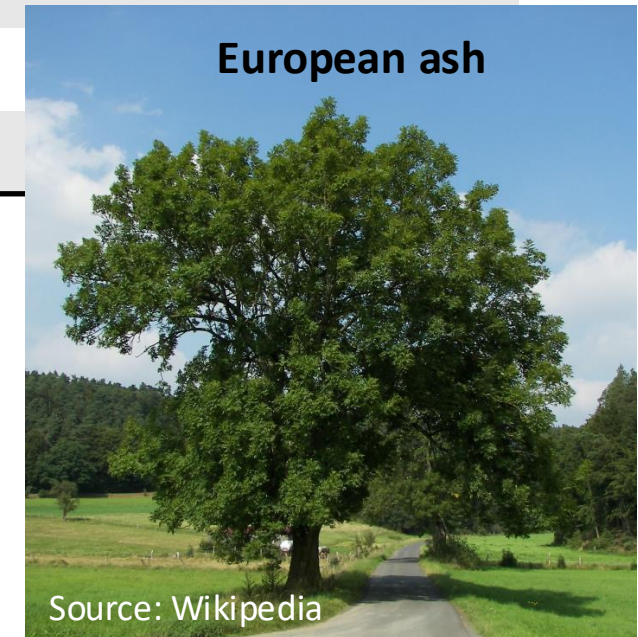


- (a) Geographical distribution of woodlands (larger sampling marked blue, fewer trees in yellow).
(b) Logistical model for mortality of woodland ash trees (pD, proportion of dead trees) over time.

Susceptibility of Novel Host Tree Characteristics

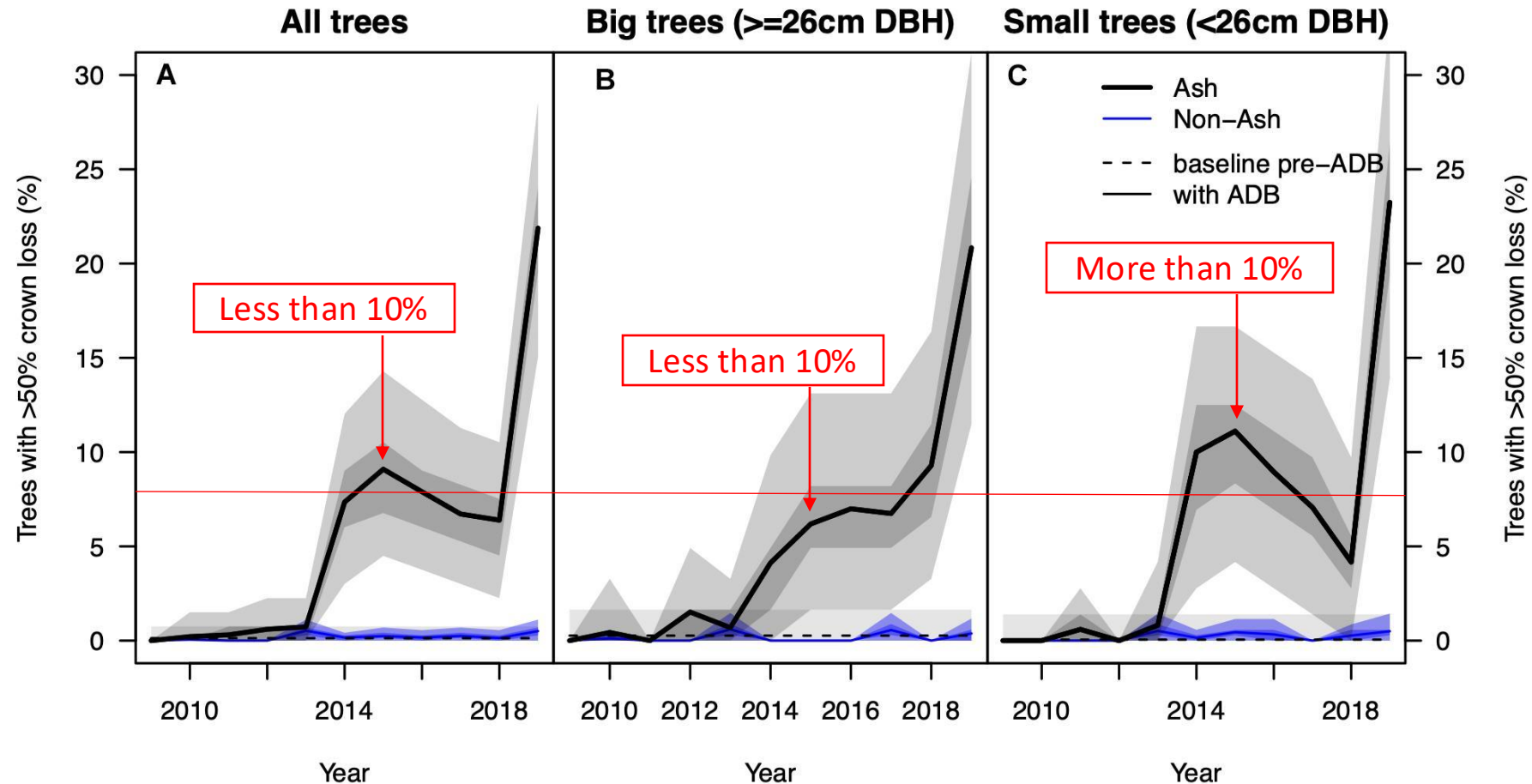
Individual Tree Characteristics	Symptoms are more severe...
Host species	... <i>F. excelsior</i> , compared to <i>F. angustifolia</i>
Gender	... male trees
Age	... younger trees
Diameter at breast height (DBH)	... trees with smaller DBH
Crown surface projection	... trees with smaller crowns

Certain tree characteristics are associated with more severe symptoms in European ash trees



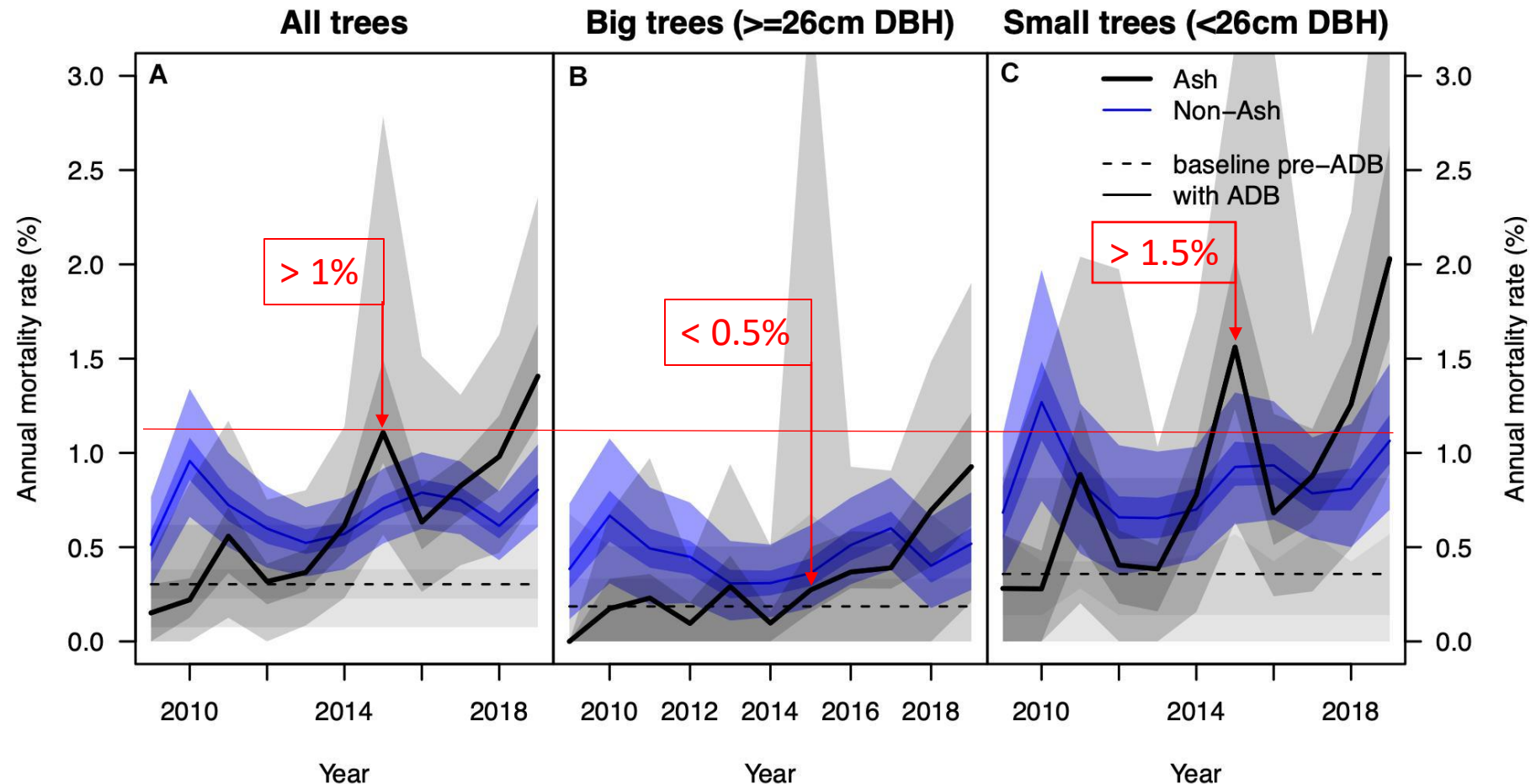
Case study in Switzerland

Crown loss is higher in trees with a small DBH



Case study in Switzerland

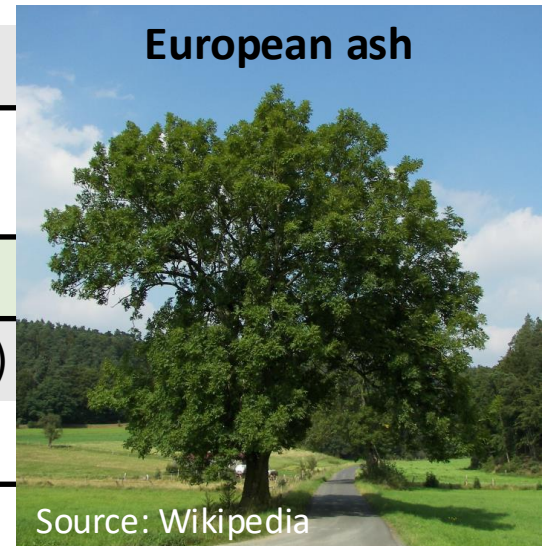
Mortality is also higher in trees with a small DBH



Susceptibility of Novel Host Tree Characteristics

Individual Tree Characteristics	Symptoms are more severe...
Host species	... <i>F. excelsior</i> , compared to <i>F. angustifolia</i>
Gender	... male trees
Age	... younger trees
Diameter at breast height (DBH)	... trees with smaller DBH
Crown surface projection	... trees with smaller crowns
Individual Tree Characteristics	Symptoms are more severe...
Phenology in spring	... producing leaves later (flushing)
Leaf senescence/ leaf shedding in autumn	... shedding leaves later

European ash

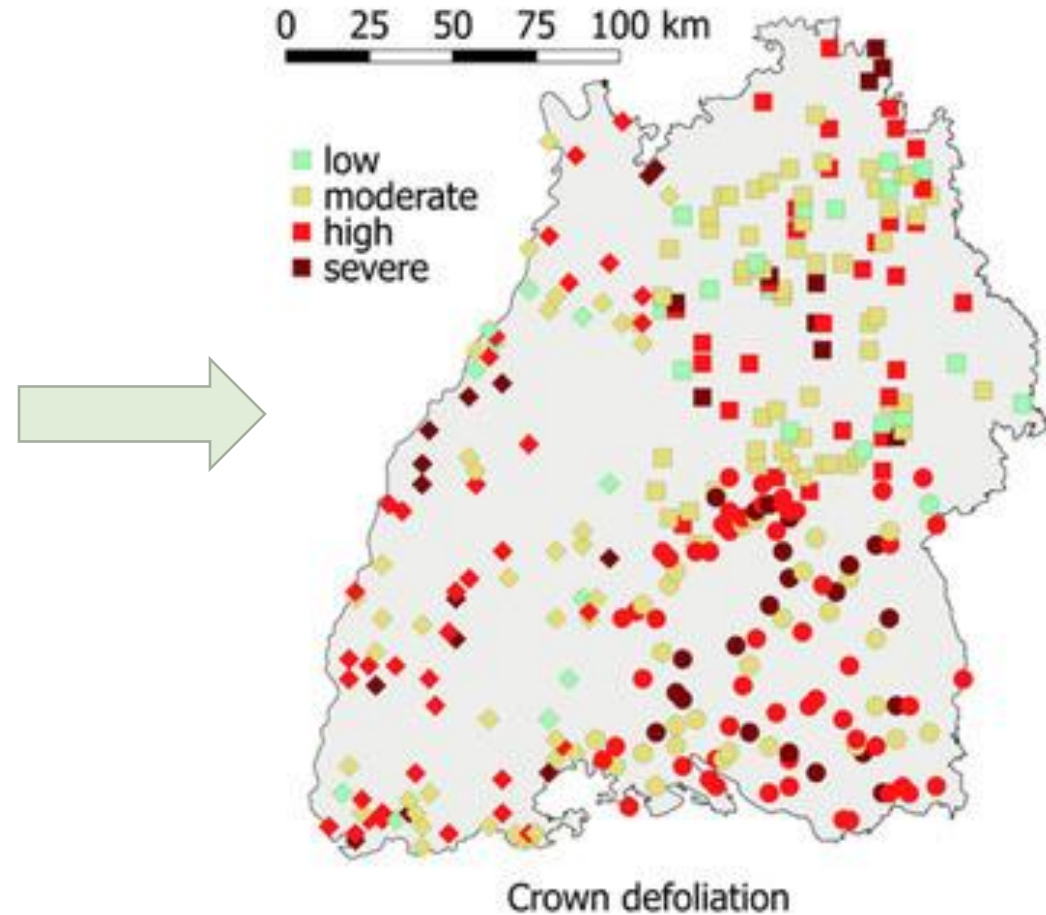
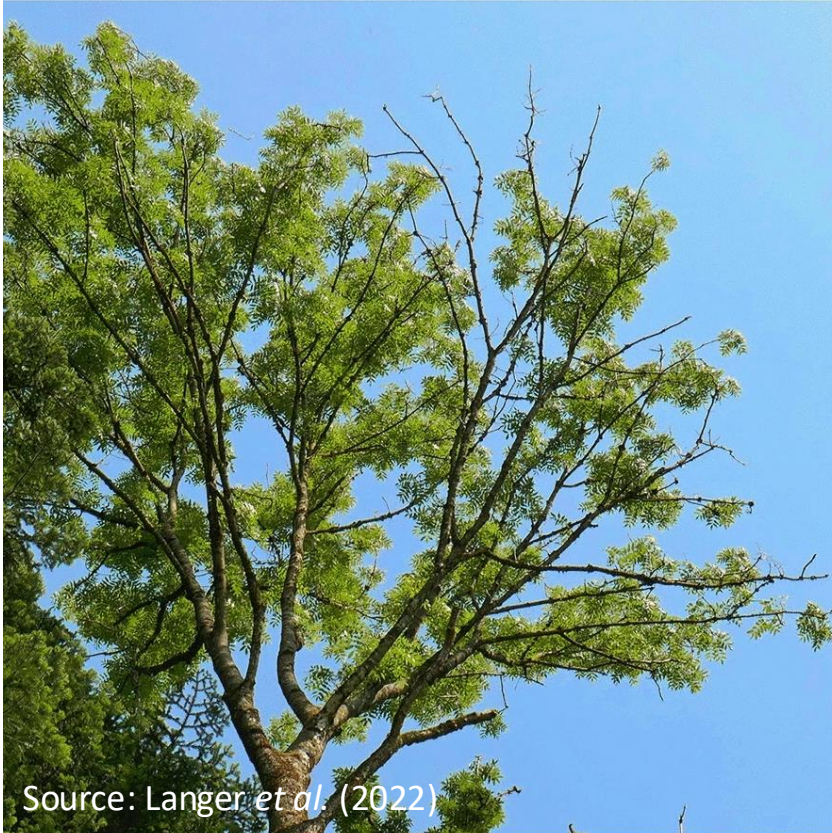


Source: Wikipedia

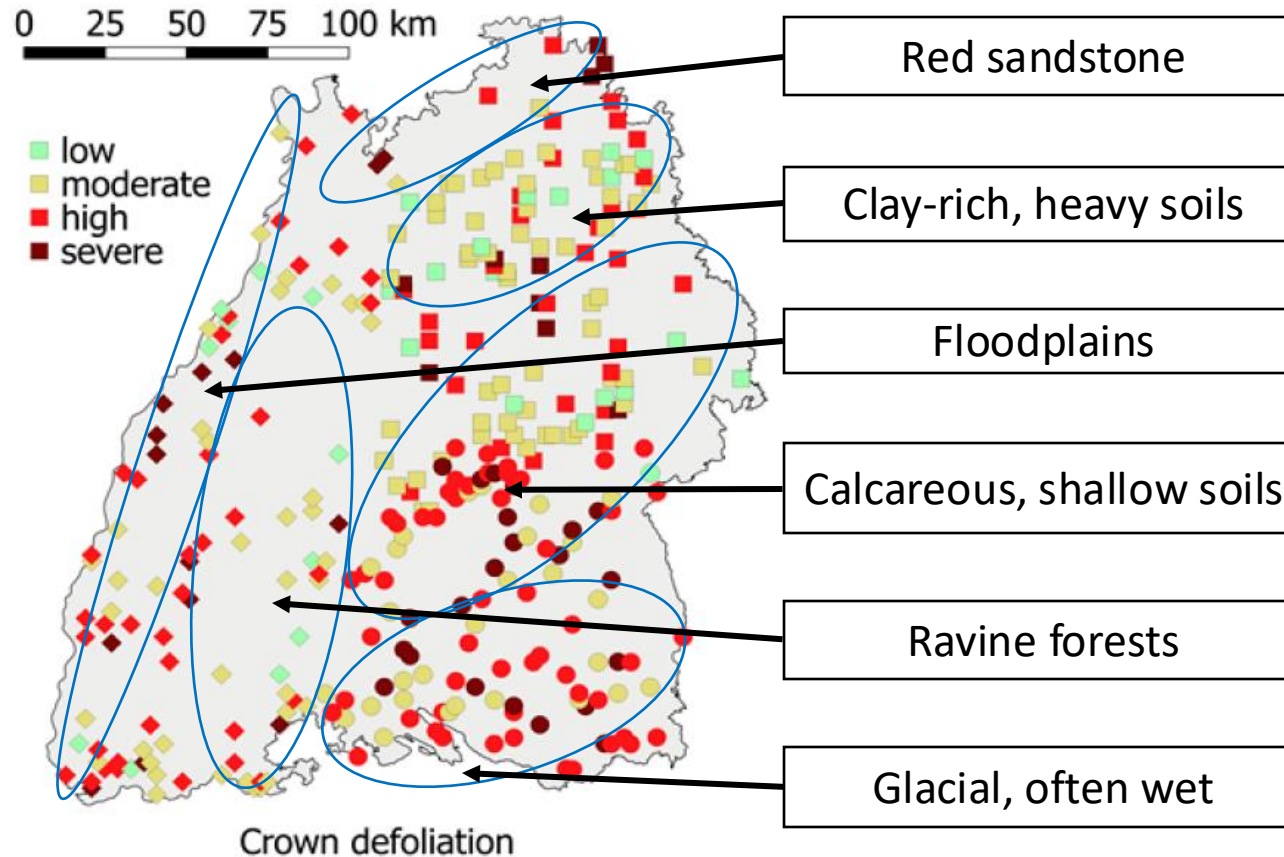
Susceptibility of Novel Host Site and Environmental Conditions

Site and Environmental Conditions	Symptoms are more severe...
Stand species composition	... pure ash stands, plantations
Stand composition (shaded vs. open)	... shaded forested sites
Altitude	... lower altitude
Temperature	... low to moderate temperature
Moisture, humidity	... more humid sites
Soil type	... unspecified

Crown Defoliation

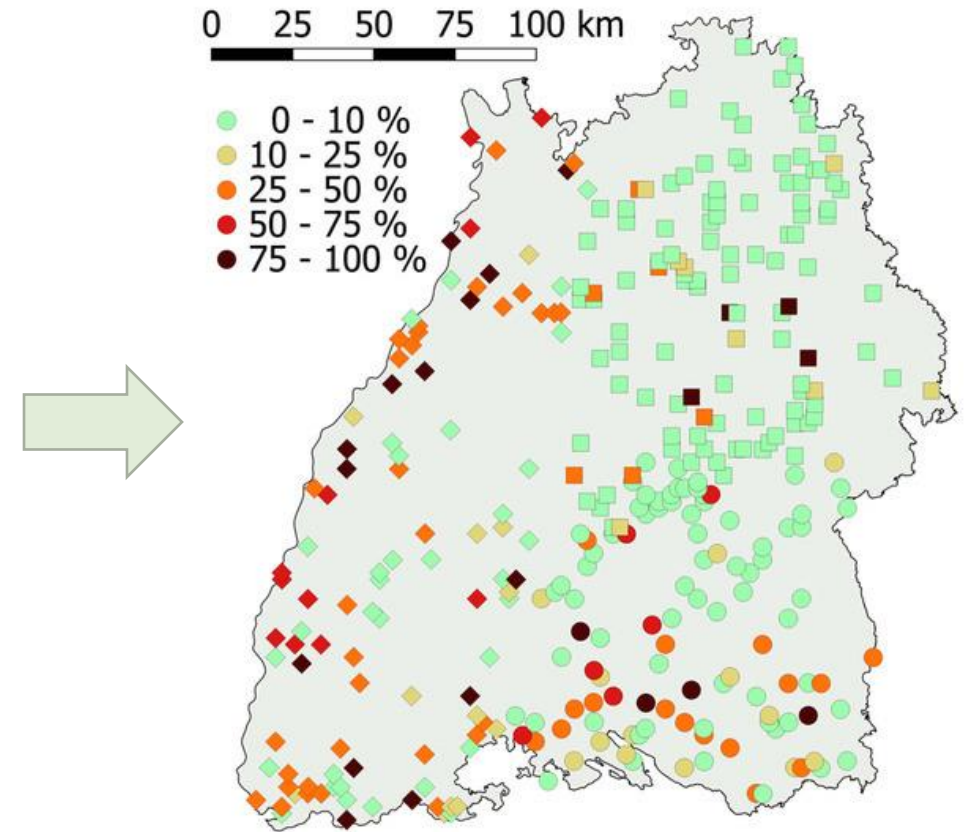
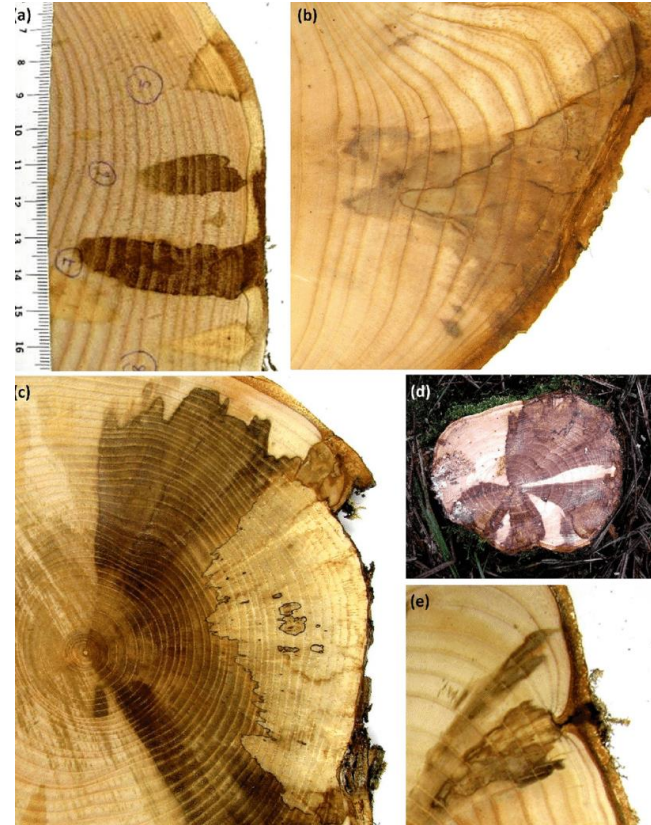


Crown Defoliation

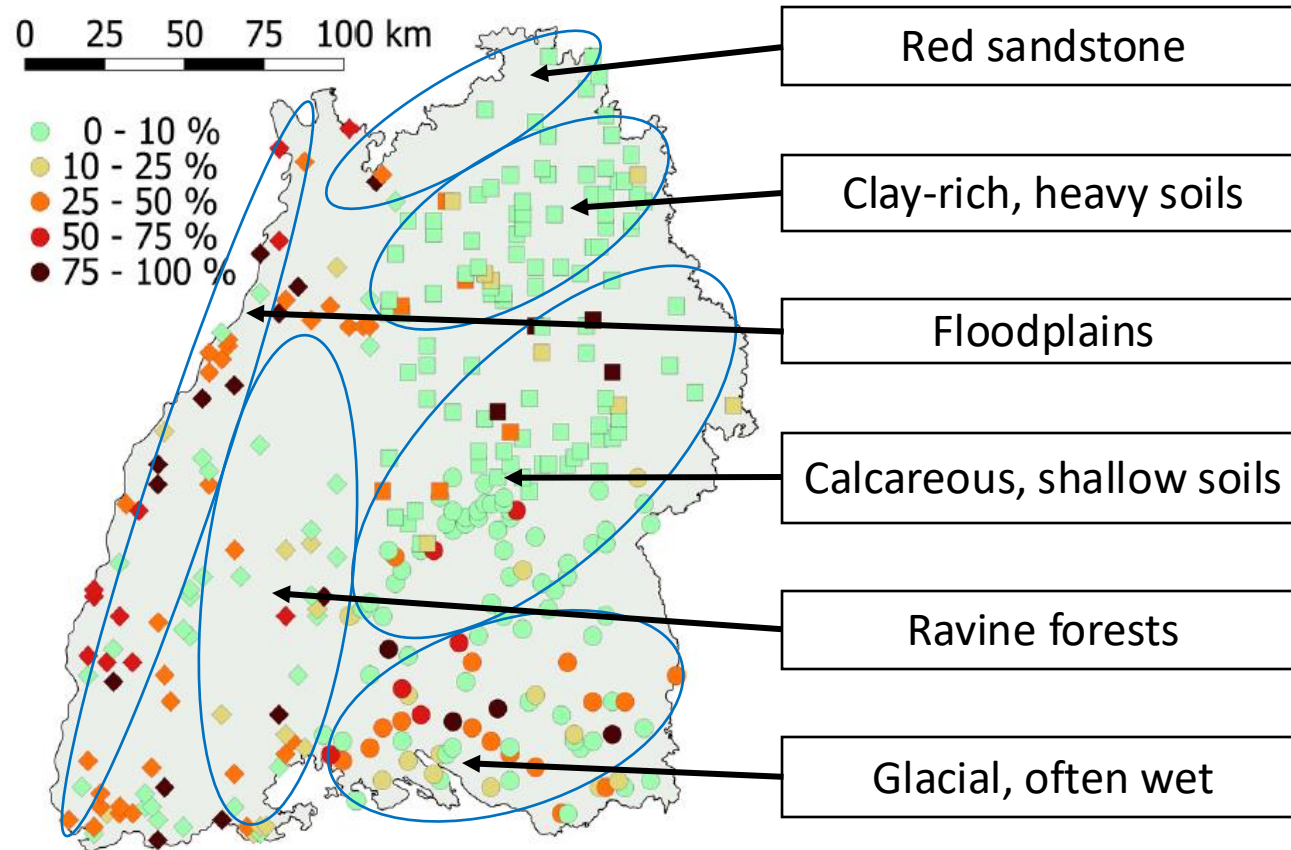


- Trees were **healthiest** in north-east
- **Healthiest trees were on drier sites** in north-east on heavy, clay-rich soils
- Severe defoliation was found on the floodplains or water-influenced sites
- The tested factors did not have a significant influence in this study

Root Collar Necroses



Root Collar Necroses



- Trees were **healthiest** in north-east
- **Healthiest trees were on drier sites** in north-east on heavy, clay-rich soils
- Severe defoliation was found on the floodplains or water-influenced sites
- The tested factors did not have a significant influence in this study

Summary

Influencing factors

Symptoms are more severe...

Host species

Gender

Age

Diameter at breast height (DBH)

Crown surface projection

Phenology in spring

Leaf senescence/ leaf shedding in autumn

Stand species composition

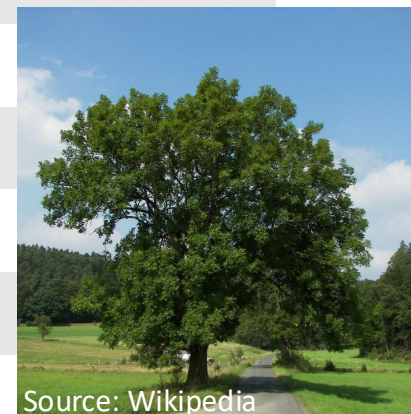
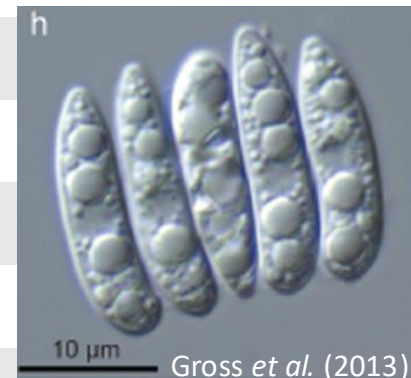
Stand composition (shaded vs. open)

Altitude

Temperature

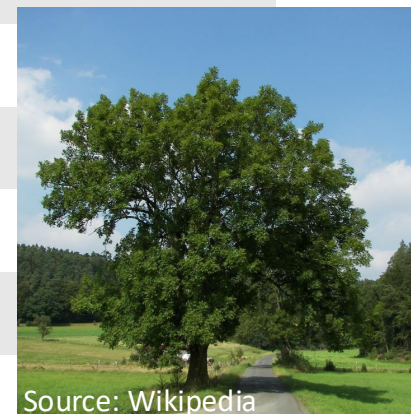
Moisture, humidity

Soil type



Summary

Influencing factors	Symptoms are more severe...
Host species	... <i>F. excelsior</i> , compared to <i>F. angustifolia</i>
Gender	... male trees
Age	... younger trees
Diameter at breast height (DBH)	... trees with smaller DBH
Crown surface projection	... trees with smaller crowns
Phenology in spring	... producing leaves later (flushing)
Leaf senescence/ leaf shedding in autumn	... shedding leaves later
Stand species composition	... pure ash stands, plantations
Stand composition (shaded vs. open)	... shaded forested sites
Altitude	... lower altitude
Temperature	... low to moderate temperature
Moisture, humidity	... more humid sites
Soil type	... unspecified



Susceptibility to Secondary Colonisers

***Armillaria* spp., the honey fungus**

Armillaria spp., is known to colonise necrosis caused by *H. fraxineus*

These secondary colonisers pose additional health and safety risks

Fruiting bodies of *Armillaria* spp. on mature ash tree



Source: Nicola Child

Susceptibility to Secondary Colonisers

Hylesinus spp.

- ash trees infected by ADB are predisposed to *Hylesinus* spp.
 - *Hylesinus crenatus*
 - *Hylesinus fraxini*

Hylesinus crenatus



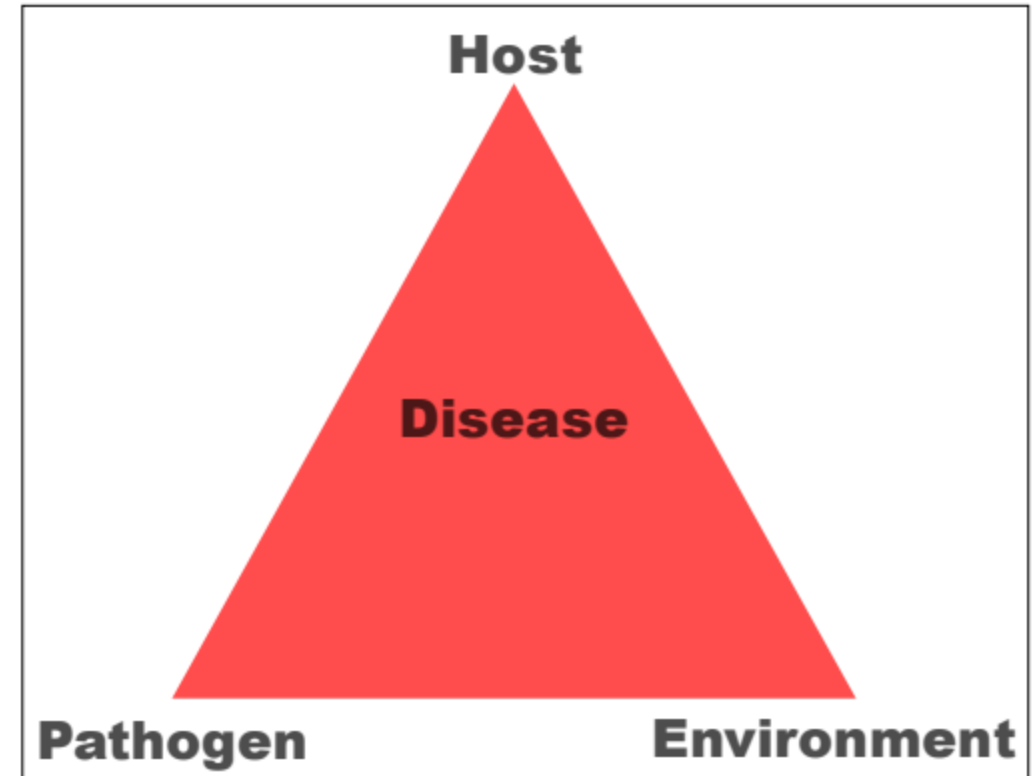
Hylesinus fraxini



The Disease Triangle

An epidemic requires:

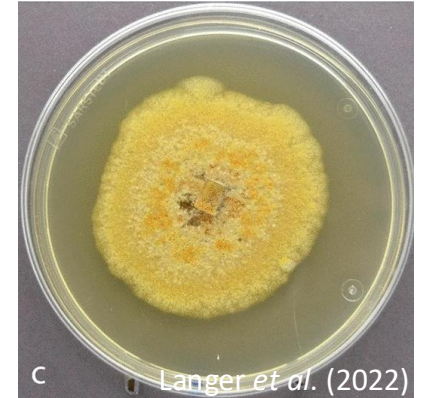
- (i) a virulent pathogen with a high reproduction rate
-> *H. fraxineus*
- (ii) an accumulation of susceptible host
-> European ash
- (iii) suitable environmental conditions for the pathogen
-> **Central Europe**



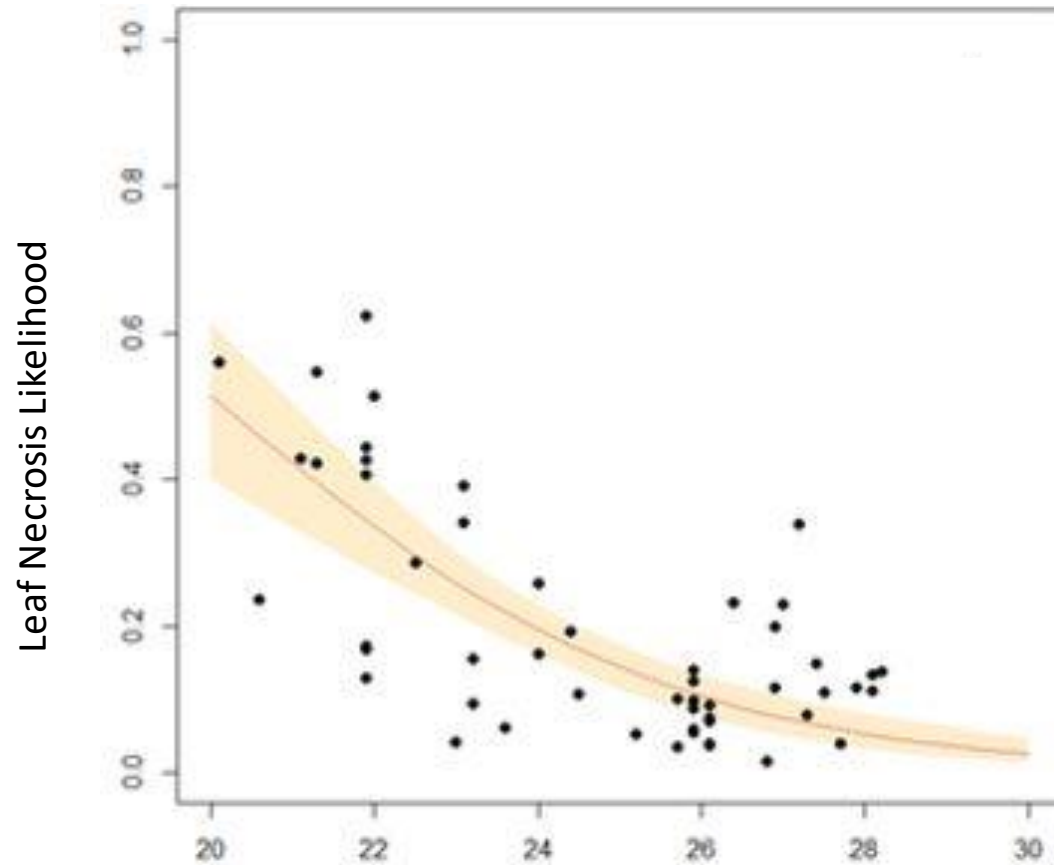
Source: <https://www.ncforestservice.gov/>

Environmental Factors

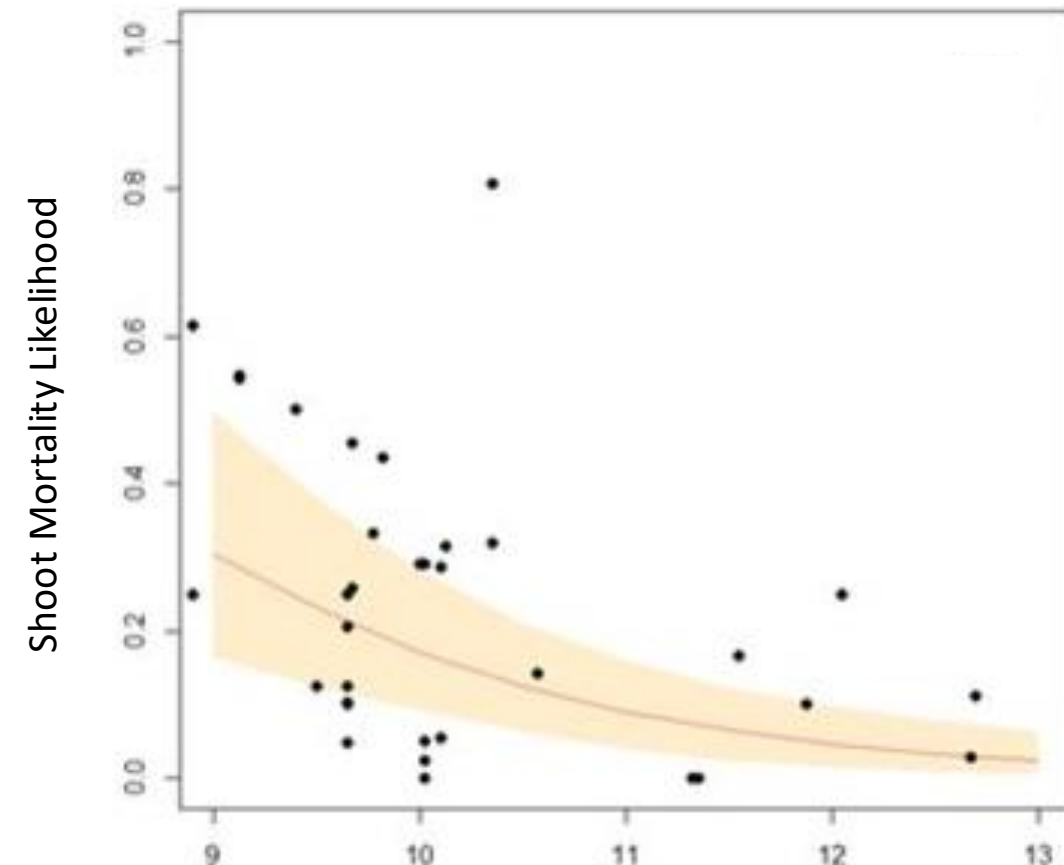
- **20 °C is optimum** for mycelial growth in culture (ceases at 30 °C)
 - In ash tissues the fungus appears to be more **heat sensitive**.
- Ascospores are produced abundantly during spring and summer
- Ascospore melanization after ejection and attachment to a host surface suggest ability to withstand adverse conditions *in-planta*.
- **Ascospores are drought sensitive**, spores can desiccate within 24 h



Climate change. Good News?

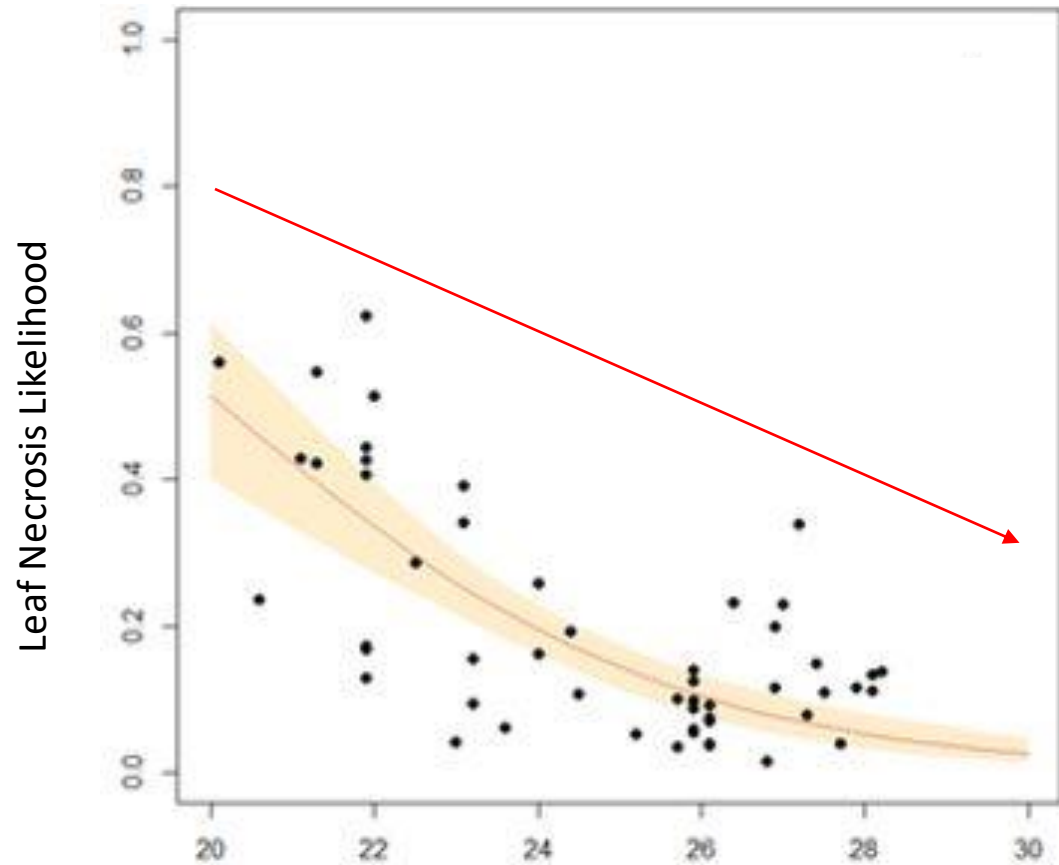


Average daily maximal temperature in July- August (°C)

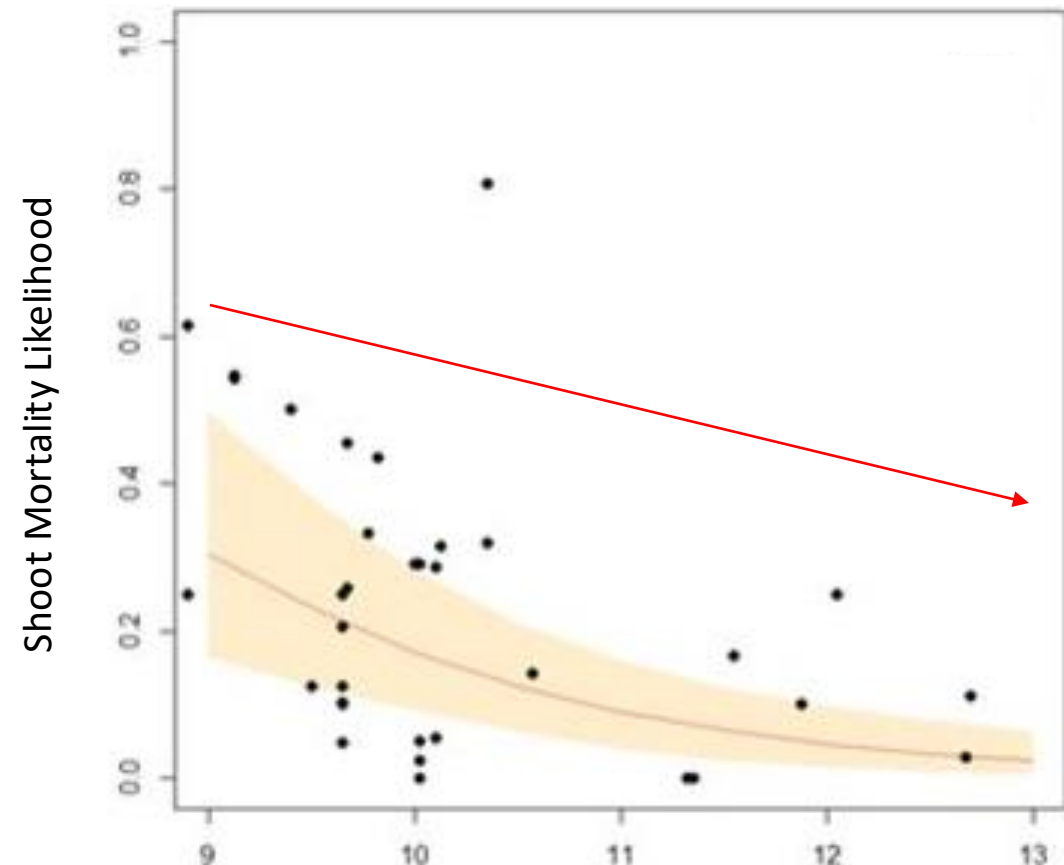


Average temperature in September-December (°C)

Climate change. Good News?



Average daily maximal temperature in July- August (°C)

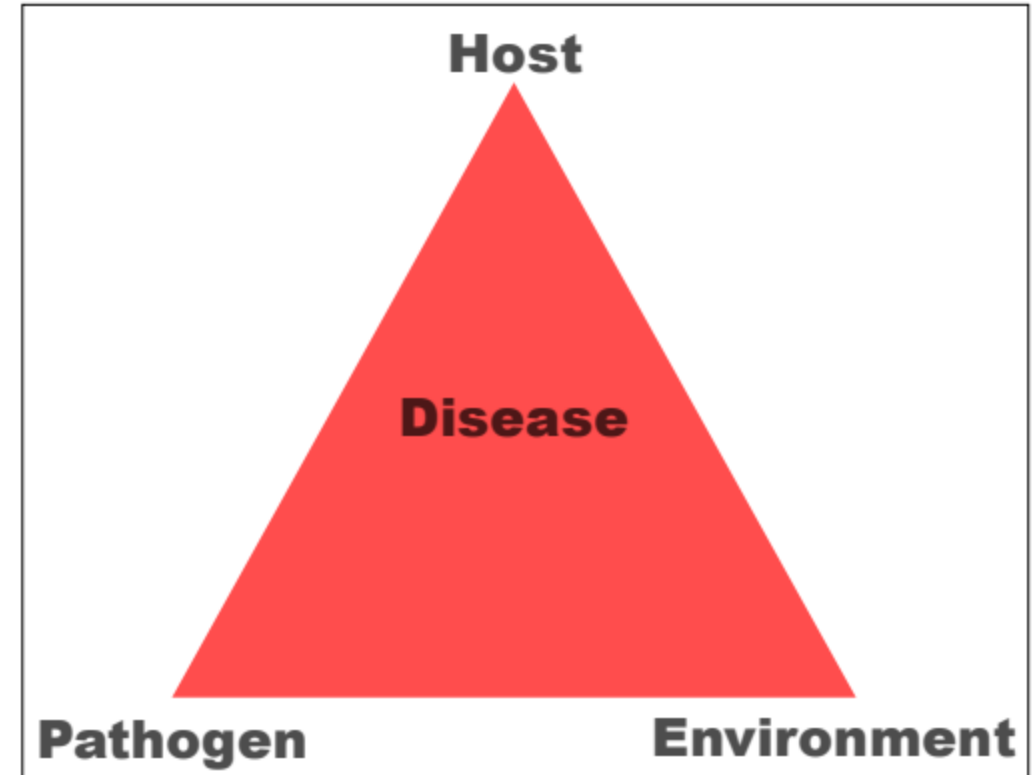


Average temperature in September-December (°C)

The Disease Triangle

An epidemic requires:

- (i) a virulent pathogen with a high reproduction rate
-> ***H. fraxineus***
- (ii) an accumulation of susceptible host
-> **European ash**
- (iii) suitable environmental conditions for the pathogen
-> **Central Europe**



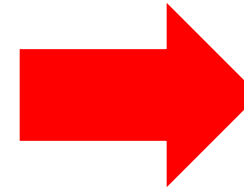
Source: <https://www.ncforestservice.gov/>

Disease management

We must control spread of the fungus to novel areas, specifically through trade



H. fraxineus



Forest management

The relevant strategy depends on objective, site, stand age and damage

General recommendations:

- **Maintain healthy** or slightly damaged trees
- In forests of habitat conservation value, **allow natural succession**
- **Minimise risks** for operational staff, forest visitors and infrastructure
- **Use other tree species** to regenerate or replant for commercial uses
 - *Acer, Betula, Fagus, Populus, Prunus, Quercus, Sorbus, Taxus, Tilia, or Ulmus spp.*
 - a.k.a. Maple, Birch, Beech, Poplar, Cherry, Oak, Rowan, Yew, Lime/ Linden, or Elm



Forest management

Why is it recommended to maintain also slightly damaged trees?

- The **low resistance means** ash populations will decline, which will leave only a few resistant trees to parent new generations of trees
- Healthy-looking trees are needed as **future seed trees**, thereby supporting the natural selection in favour of decreased susceptibility
- Despite long distance pollen flow, management will be necessary to **prevent inbreeding** in increasingly fragmented populations

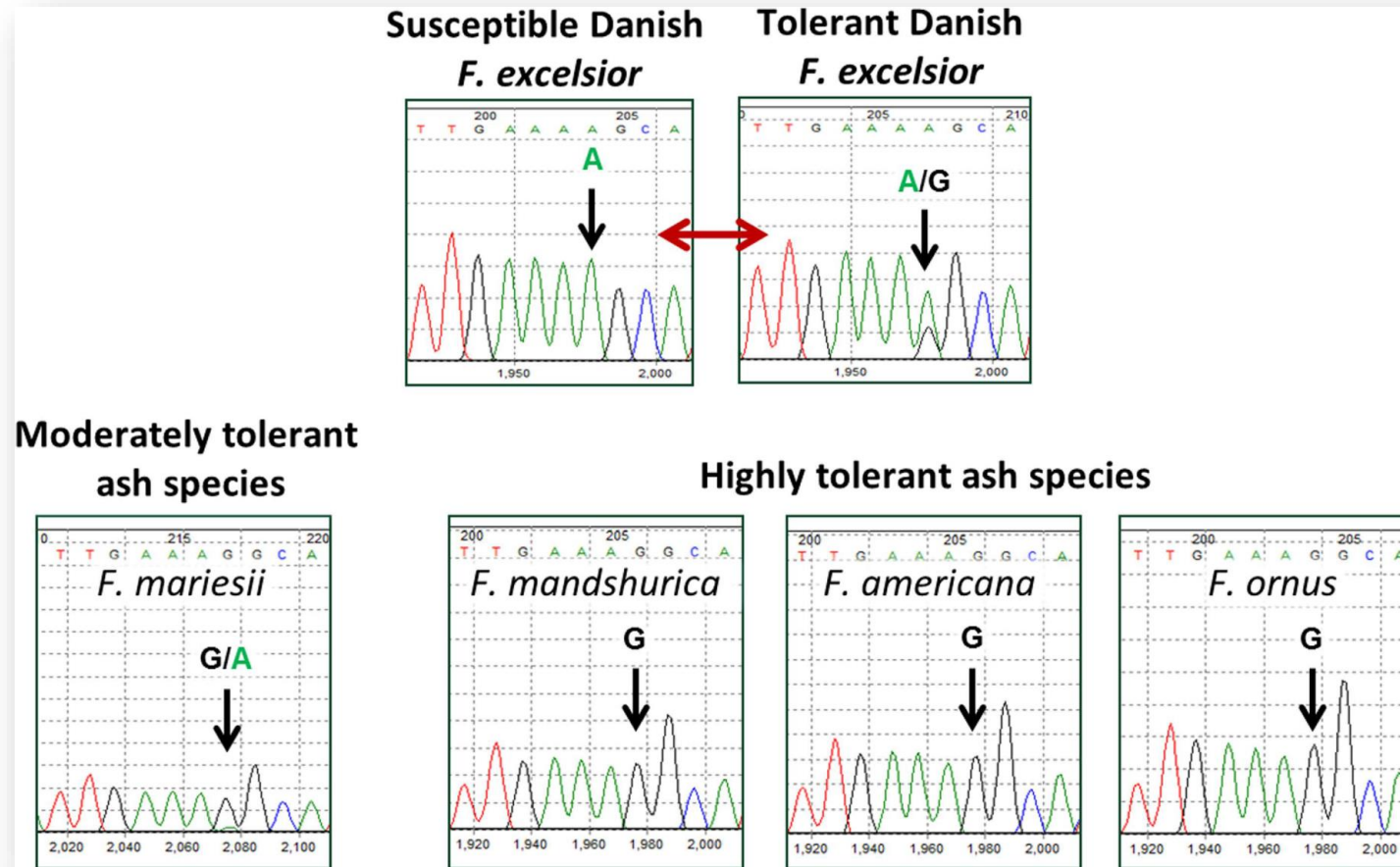
Resistance of European ash

- approx. **5% of trees are considered resistant**, showing no or only insignificant symptoms
- However, this **tolerance is heritable**, which gives reason for hope for the recovery of *F. excelsior*



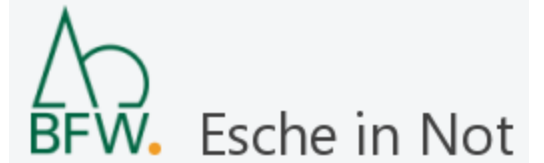
Resistance of European ash

Identification of resistance markers in Danish ash trees by associative transcriptomics



Sequence chromatograms showing the cSNP position in a number of *Fraxinus* species

Breeding for Resistance

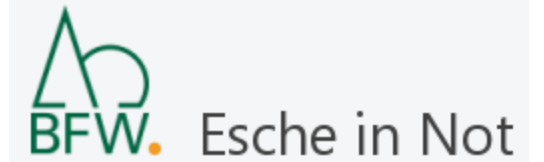


Identifying and promoting genetic and heritable resistance in Europe

➤ e.g. Austrian programme “Esche in Not” (ash in distress) from 2015-2024



Breeding for Resistance

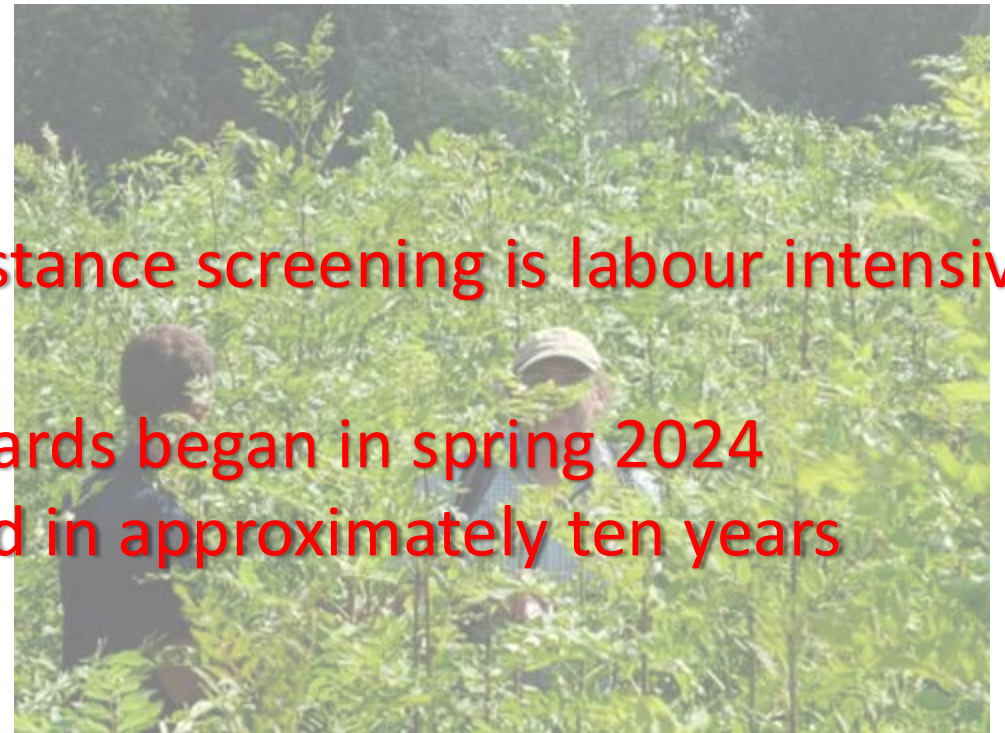
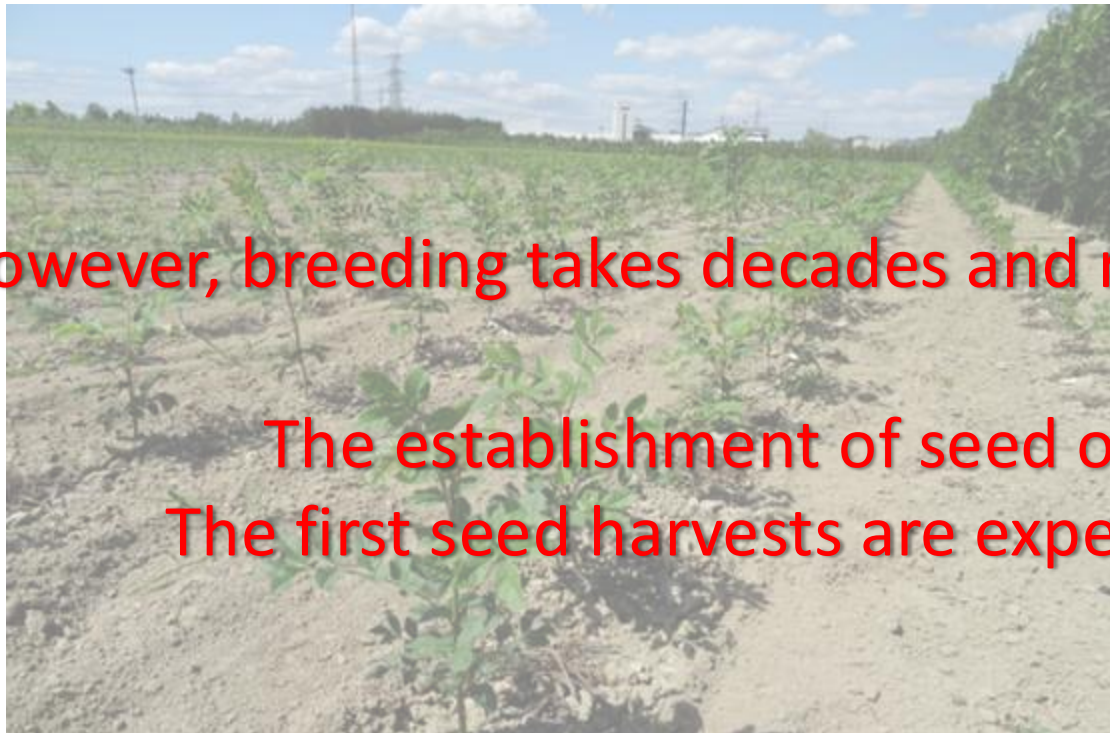


Identifying and promoting genetic and heritable resistance in Europe

➤ e.g. Austrian programme “Esche in Not” (ash in distress) from 2015-2024

However, breeding takes decades and resistance screening is labour intensive

The establishment of seed orchards began in spring 2024
The first seed harvests are expected in approximately ten years



Breeding for Resistance

The publication of the ash genome and subsequent genomic studies are helping



[About us](#) [Why protect?](#) [Science](#) [Education](#) [News](#) [Blog](#)

[Work With Us](#)

NEWS

30.07.2024

A new reference genome from a healthy ash tree

Our researchers have been busy creating a new genome resource

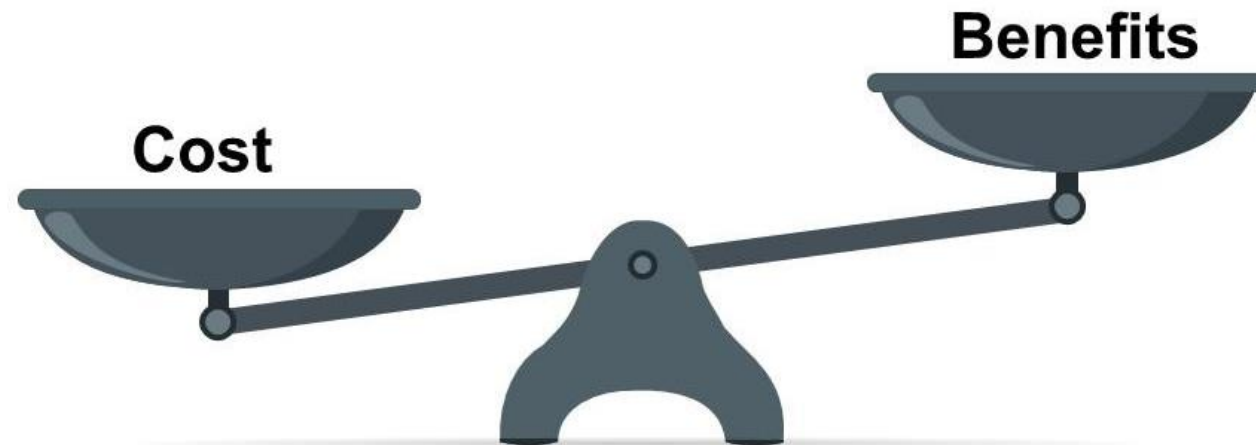


It is now possible to predict tree health with over 90% accuracy!

Costs of Breeding for Resistance?

Possible trade-offs when selecting for host resistance:

- Growth?
- Competitiveness?
- Fecundity?

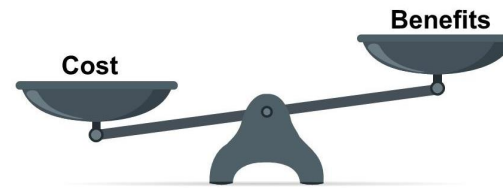


Source: <https://www.slideteam.net/>

Costs of Breeding for Resistance?

Possible trade-offs when selecting for host resistance:

- Growth?
- Competitiveness?
- Fecundity?
- Susceptibility to novel threats?



Source: <https://www.slideteam.net/>

➤ The Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*)



Emerald Ash Borer - Bad news!



Source: M Kenis



Source: John Innes Centre

5369161

STOP EAB.

joshkwinkler.com/eab

Please join the artist for a public reception of new sculptural work promoting awareness about the EAB in MN. There will be warm drinks and snacks.

Mankato Reception: Sat, Nov 12th at 3pm. 1700 block of Broad Street Blvd (south side of blvd)

Rochester Reception: Sat, Nov 19th at 3pm. Soldiers Field Memorial Park (east side of running track)

Native to Asia, the Emerald Ash Borer was first found near Detroit in 2002. Since its arrival, it has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees throughout the Midwest and East. The larvae feed on the inner bark of the tree. This inhibits the tree from carrying water and nutrients to its living foliage. The adult beetles exit the trees in the spring and fly to new specimens to lay their eggs and repeat the cycle. In 2008 it arrived in Minnesota. Minnesota has some 900 million ash trees, more than any other state. As of 2016, the beetle has only been documented in the Twin Cities and Rochester. Humans transporting firewood is the most common means for the spread. Please do your part to promote awareness about this problem.

www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/eab/index.html

www.mda.state.mn.us/emeraldashborer



Josh K. Winkler is a fiscal year 2016 recipient of an Artist initiative grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and culture heritage fund.



Source: Christopher Asaro

- The emerald ash borer is native from East Asia
- It is an insect that seriously threatens all Northern American *Fraxinus* species

Emerald Ash Borer - Bad news!



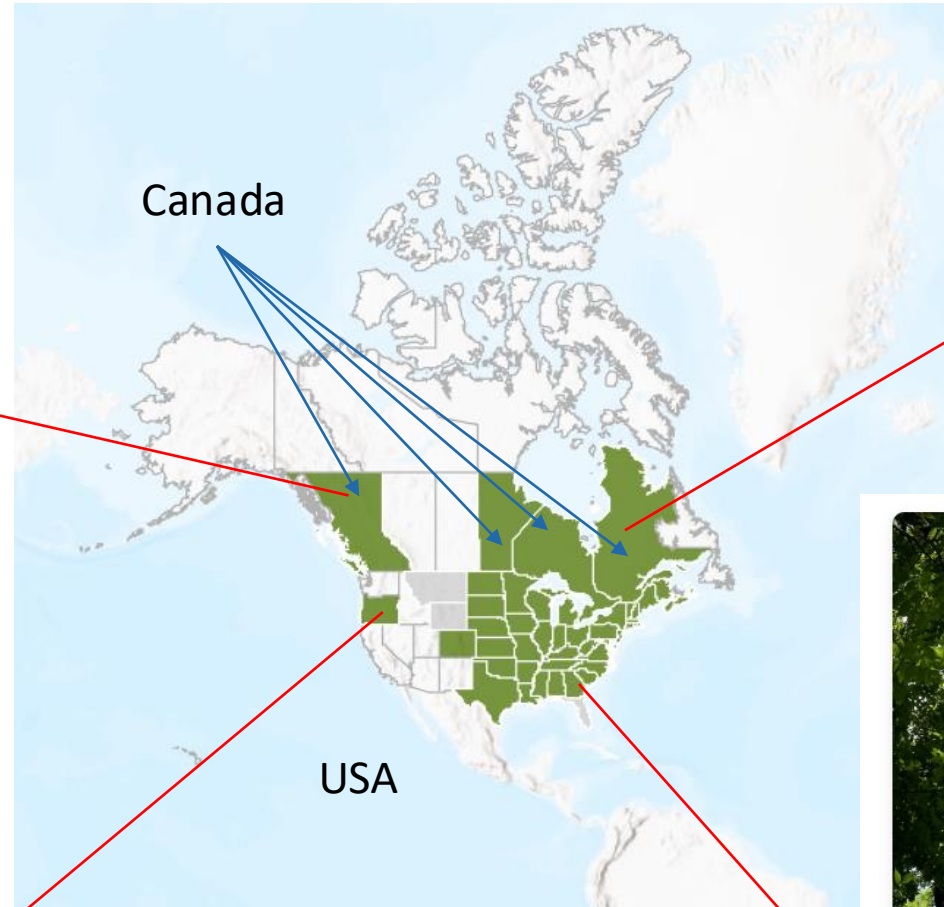
About EAB

The emerald ash borer and why it's a threat to ash trees worldwide.



Emerald Ash Borer Impacts on American Indian Communities

Emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation is a major concern for American Indian people. Many American Indian cultures and traditions rely on ash trees for the wood needed for making baskets, lacrosse sticks, pipe stems, flutes, and medicinal remedies. The ash tree is a central figure in some traditional and religious stories told by several American Indian tribes.



EAB Network



If You Find EAB

Where it is a particular state, contact resources in each state, regulations in each state, etc.)



Black Ash: A Foundational Wetland and Cultural Keystone Species

Learn about black ash ecology and the cultural significance of the species.

Spread of the Emerald Ash Borer



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

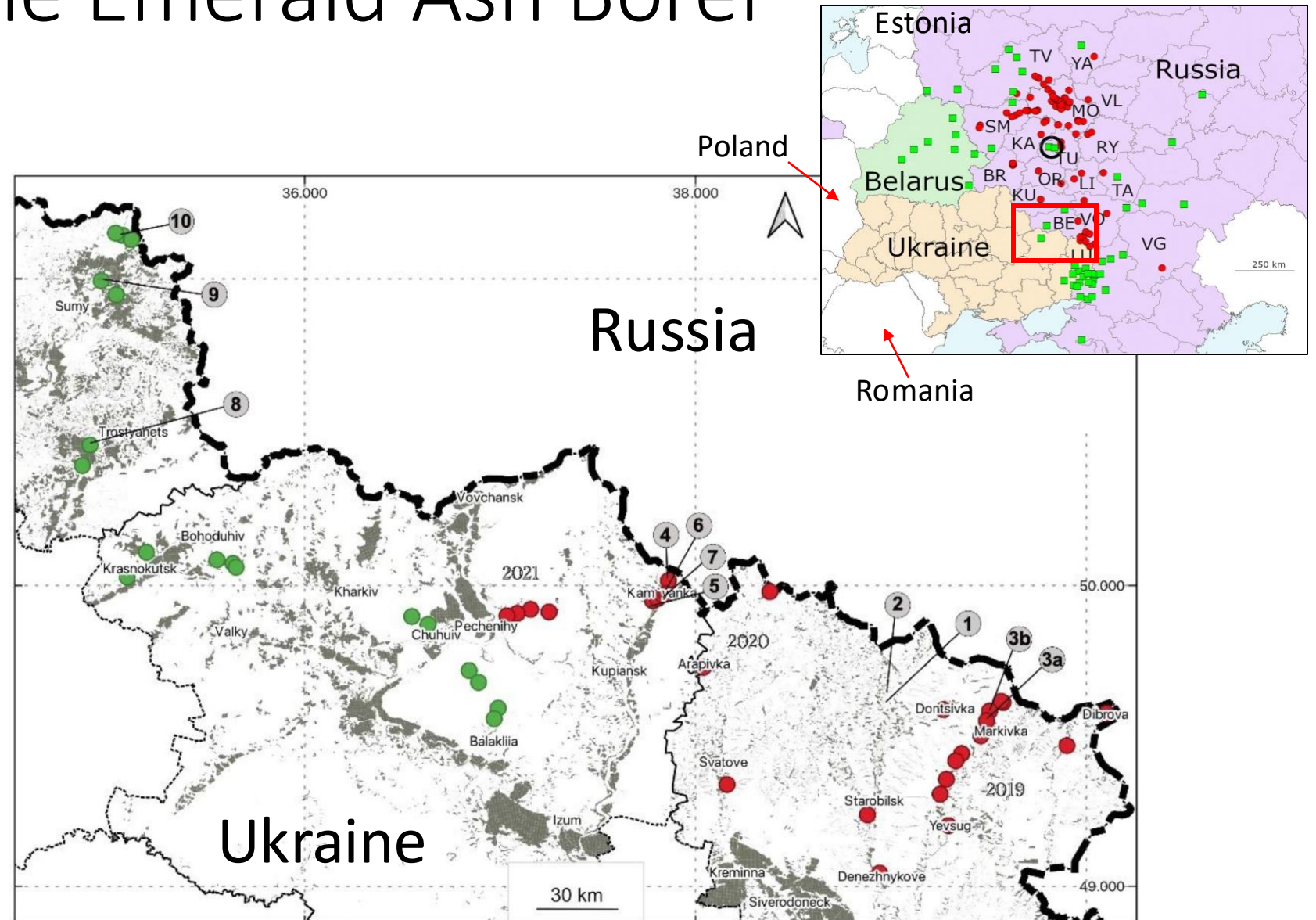


The **red dots** indicate the localities where the Emerald Ash Borer was detected.

Spread of the Emerald Ash Borer

Results from
monitoring in 2021

The **red dots** indicate
the localities where
Emerald Ash Borer was
detected in **Ukraine**.





New Phytologist

Full paper | Open Access |

A glimmer of hope – ash genotypes with increased resistance to ash dieback pathogen show cross-resistance to emerald ash borer

Martin M. Gossner, Anouchka Perret-Gentil, Elisabeth Britt, Valentin Queloz, Gaétan Glauser, Tim Ladd, Amanda D. Roe, Michelle Cleary, Mateusz Liziniewicz, Lene R. Nielsen ... [See all authors](#) ▾

First published: 21 June 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.19068> | Citations: 1

- The ash genotypes with a higher ADB resistance also possess an increased resistance against EAB.
- These results are from Scandinavian and Swiss genotypes, with early and late instar larvae.



Biocontrol for Emerald Ash Borer?

There is a known parasitoid (*Spathius polonicus*) of Emerald Ash Borer

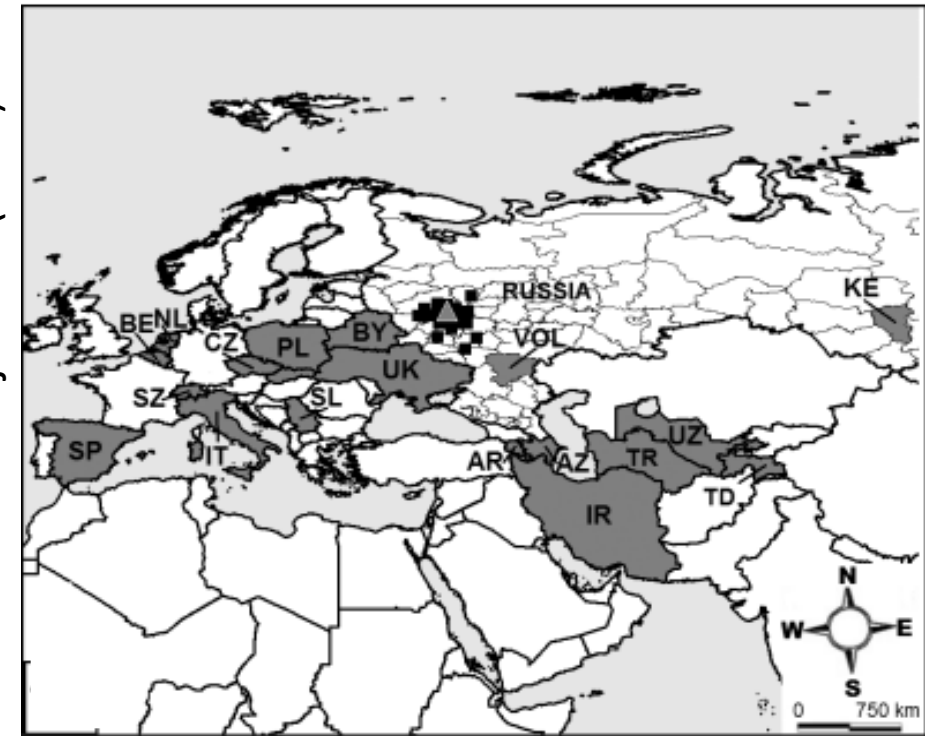
- Has successfully induced 50% mortality of Emerald Ash Borer larvae in Moscow



Musolini et al. (2017)

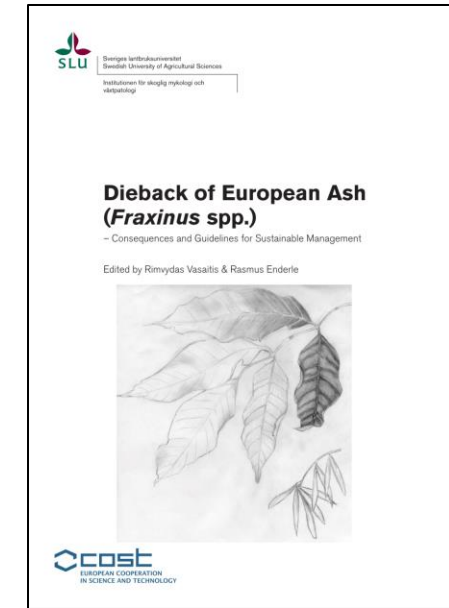
Spathius polonicus

Orlova-Bienkowskaja et al. (2020)



Range of parasitoid (shaded areas)

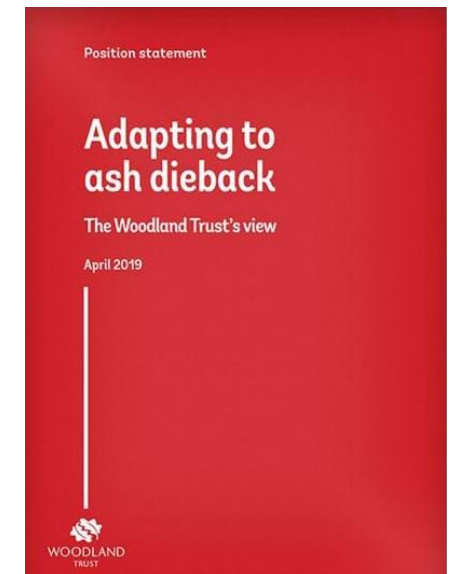
Responses in research



Royal
Botanic
Gardens **Kew**



THE
ASH
PROJECT



Responses in research



- Demonstration project
- **Intra-national cooperation**
- Cross-disciplinary cooperation

fraxconnect

Jörg Grüner
(FVA-BW)

Network
coordination

Economic
analyses

fraxgen

Ben Bubner
(Thünen-Institut)

Plus tree
selection

Genetic
characterisation

Vegetative
propagation

Resistance marker:
application

Resistance marker:
development

Genetic
architecture

Secondary
metabolism and
biomarkers

fraxmon

Ralf Kätzel
(LFE)

Biomarkers

Resistance
indicators

Remote sensing:
interpretation key

Remote sensing:
inventory design

Remote sensing:
modelling

Hyperspectral
imaging

Terrestrial
monitoring

Histology

fraxpath

Gitta Langer
(NW-FVA)

Root collar necrosis:
locational factors

Root collar necrosis:
histology

Infection trials

Fungi in the
rhizosphere

Pathogen-host
interactions

Secondary
metabolites

Hypovirulent
viruses

RNAi-mediated
control

Microbiota

fraxsilva

Ralf Nagel
(NW-FVA)

Stand dynamics

Fundamentals in
ecology

FraxVir

Susanne Jochner-Oette
(KU Eichstätt)

Remote sensing:
spectral signature

Virus diversity
in ash

Molecular
monitoring

Virus defence
genes

Funding agencies:

Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium
für Ernährung
und Landwirtschaft

Bundesministerium
für Umwelt, Naturschutz
und nukleare Sicherheit

FNR
Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V.

Waldklimafonds

Responses in research



- Demonstration project
- International cooperation
- Cross-disciplinary cooperation

fraxconnect

Jörg Grüner
(FVA-BW)

Network
coordination

Economic
analyses

fraxgen

Ben Bubner
(Thünen-Institut)

Plus tree
selection

Genetic
characterisation

Vegetative
propagation

Resistance marker:
application

Resistance marker:
development

Genetic
architecture

Secondary
metabolism and
biomarkers

fraxmon

Ralf Kätzel
(LFE)

Biomarkers

Resistance
indicators

Remote sensing:
interpretation key

Remote sensing:
inventory design

Remote sensing:
modelling

Hyperspectral
imaging

Terrestrial
monitoring

Histology

fraxpath

Gitta Langer
(NW-FVA)

Root collar necrosis:
locational factors

Root collar necrosis:
histology

Infection trials

Fungi in the
rhizosphere

Pathogen-host
interactions

Secondary
metabolites

Hypovirulent
viruses

RNAi-mediated
control

Microbiota

fraxsilva

Ralf Nagel
(NW-FVA)

Stand dynamics

Fundamentals in
ecology

FraxVir

Susanne Jochner-Oette
(KU Eichstätt)

Remote sensing:
spectral signature

Virus diversity
in ash

Molecular
monitoring

Virus defence
genes

Funding agencies:

Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium
für Ernährung
und Landwirtschaft

Bundesministerium
für Umwelt, Naturschutz
und nukleare Sicherheit



Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V.



Infection trials with *H. fraxineus*



Infection trials with *H. fraxineus*

Symptom development in infected saplings *e.g.* wilting



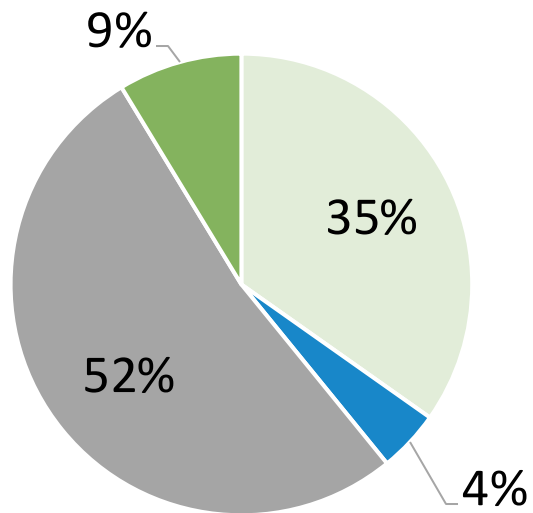
Viruses



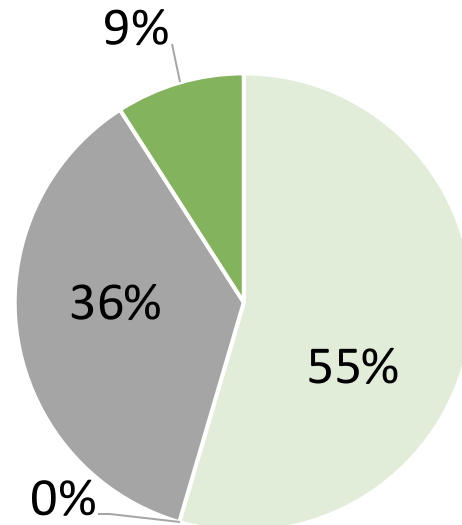
Universität Hamburg
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG



HfMV1 positive



HfMV1 negative



■ not virulent ■ mid virulence
■ low virulence ■ high virulence

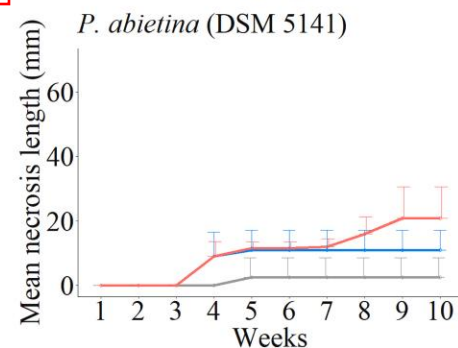
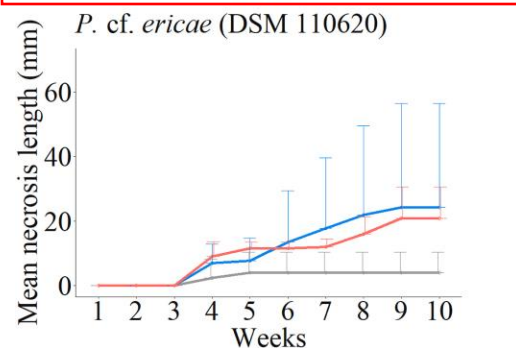
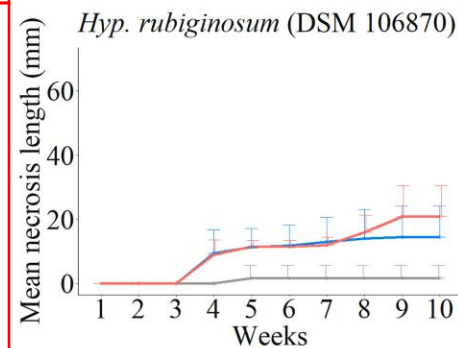
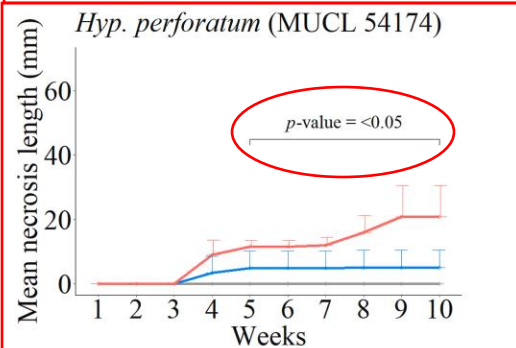
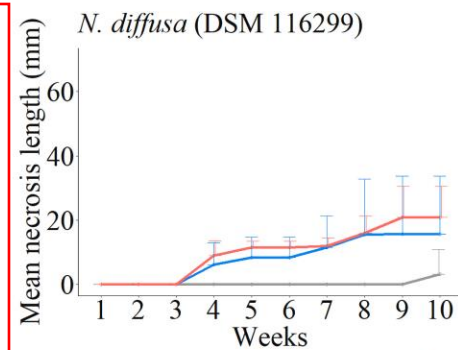
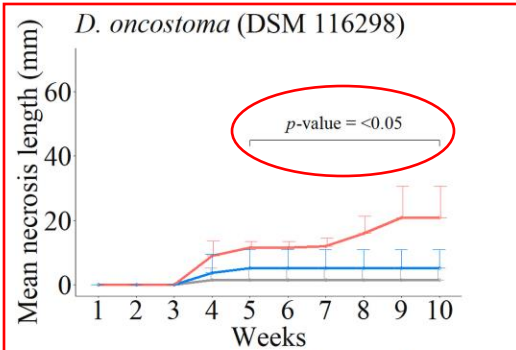
- Mycoviruses: HfMV1 and HaVV1
- HfMV1 showed no signs of causing hypovirulence (Lutz et al. 2024)
- HaVV1 still needs to be tested

Endophytes



Technische
Universität
Braunschweig

HZI HELMHOLTZ
Zentrum für
Infektionsforschung



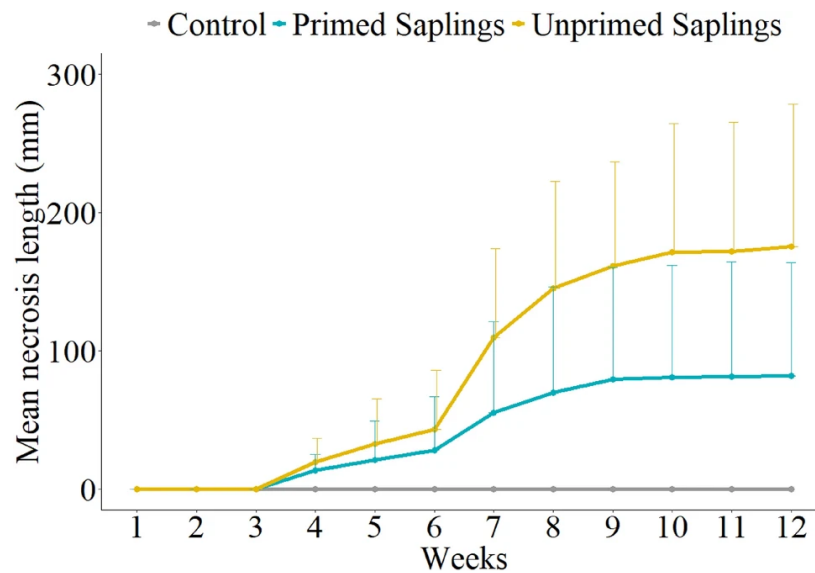
- Six fungal endophytes were selected
- Two significantly reduced necrosis length under greenhouse conditions
- More tests needed, including field trials and assessment of synergies

Priming



The primed state can be described as:

“an **augmented activated defence response** towards a pathogen” Ridley *et al.* (2025)



- Priming is an established method in agriculture
- On average, necrosis expansion was reduced by 53% in primed saplings
- More studies necessary, including to assess the long-term effectiveness

Responses in research



FraxForFuture
2020-2024



FraxForFuture 2
2025-2028

Conclusion

- European ash is threatened by *H. fraxineus*
 - socio-culturally and economically impacts
- There are many factors that can increase susceptibility
- Forest management and tree breeding can reduce losses and damages
- However, we must prevent future introductions of the fungus
- We must also be aware of climate change impacts and novel threats *e.g.* EAB

Langer *et al.* (2022)



Lewis White



Rasmus Enderle



References for further reading

- Ridley *et al.* (2025) Fungal endophytes with anti-fungal metabolites reduce symptoms of ash dieback in *Fraxinus excelsior* in a greenhouse experiment. DOI: <https://10.1016/j.funbio.2025.101646>
- Ridley *et al.* (2025) Priming of ash saplings with a low virulent *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* strain as a possible disease control approach for reducing symptoms of ash dieback. DOI: <https://10.1007/s41348-024-01056-z>
- Lutz *et al.* (2024) Identification of viruses for biocontrol of the ash dieback disease. DOI: <https://10.1007/s41348-023-00804-x>
- Langer *et al.* (2022) FraxForFuture—research on European ash dieback in Germany. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41348-022-00670-z>
- Marcais *et al.* (2022) Chapter 13 - Ash dieback. Volume 2 : Forest Tree Health. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-85042-1.00022-7>
- Vasaitis & Enderle (ed.) (2017) Dieback of European Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) – Consequences and Guidelines for Sustainable Management
- Enderle & Vasaitis (ed.) (2017) Advances in Ash Dieback Research, And Some Other Invasive Diseases Of Trees
- Gross *et al.* (2013) *Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus*, the causal agent of European ash dieback. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/mpp.12073>