Susceptibility of *Pedicularis* spp. to *Cronartium ribicola* and *C. flaccidum* in Finland

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Rust aeciospores of *Cronartium ribicola* and *C. flaccidum* were collected from several locations in Finland and used to inoculate *Pedicularis* spp. and some known and suspected alternate hosts in 2008-9. In all trials, *C. ribicola* formed uredinia and telia on leaves of *Ribes nigrum*. No fruiting bodies of *C. ribicola* formed on old leaves of *Pedicularis* spp. but both uredinia and telia were found on young leaves of *P. palustris* ssp. *palustris*. For the first time, *C. ribicola* was shown to infect *Pedicularis* sp. in Europe. All the spore sources were virulent on *Pedicularis* sp. regardless of the geographic origin of the aeciospores. *Cronartium flaccidum* produced uredinia or telia on leaves of *P. palustris* ssp. *palustris*, *P. lapponica*, *Vincetoxicum hirundinaria* and *Melampyrum sylvaticum*. Neither rust infected *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Calluna vulgaris* or *Ledum palustre*. Similar to rusts in Asia and North America, the results showed that European *C. ribicola* has a more variable virulence and wider alternate host spectrum than earlier described. *Pedicularis palustris* may play a role in the spread of *Cronartium* in natural forests.