First record of *Diplodia pinea* (syn. *Sphaeropsis sapinea*) on Sots pine in Estonia.

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For Estonia, the widely to the whole world distributed dangerous pathogen of pines *D. pinea* was first detected in Järveselja, South-East of Estonia in 2007, on fallen cones of *Pinus nigra* (Hanso, Drenkhan 2009). In other countries this “universal” pathogen was known to cause dieback, shoot blight, canker, crown wilt, needle blight, collar rot, wood stain and root disease. Next year, in 2008, the fungus was found rapidly spreading throughout Estonia, but still only on cones of *P. nigra*. Thereafter, in 2009, this pathogen was first time detected on twigs and in 2010 on needles of *P. nigra*.

In the autumn 2012, *D. pinea* was for the first time detected on the native pine species *P. sylvestris* in West-Estonian Island Vormsi. A group of 60-70 years old Scots pines was found infected there. Anamorphic fruitings of the fungus were found on cones, but also suddenly on twigs and needles. The forest owner had noticed some kind of damage on these pines already in 2011. Several other *P. sylvestris* trees, which were sampled thereafter and investigated as in Vormsi Island, as well as in South-East Estonia did not show symptoms (including fruitings) of this fungus.

In the presentation various symptoms of *D. pinea* on *P. sylvestris* were demonstrated and compared with the symptoms on *P. nigra*. Pine wood stain, got by the artificial inoculation of fresh pine wood pieces by *D. pinea in vitro* was also demonstrated.

Climate warming obviously supported the invasion of the fungus to Estonia, but introduction to Vormsi (and to the native *P. sylvestris*) may in this case have occurred by previous use of wooden package materials arrived through international trade: A heap of wood, originating from foreign hutches, stored obviously for firewood, was found directly under the affected trees. This wood material and the infected *P. sylvestris* trees will be investigated again in the spring 2013.

References