European Larch Canker: A New Disease in Canada and a New North American Host Record

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ABSTRACT

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European larch canker, caused by *Lachnellula willkommii*, was widespread in southern New Brunswick and in Nova Scotia on eastern larch. Branch and stem infections were common and some tree mortality was observed.

Additional key words: *Dasyscypha, Larix laricina, Trichoscyphella*

European larch canker, caused by *Lachnellula willkommii* (Hartig) Dennis, had been known in North America only in Massachusetts on *Larix decidua* Mill. (1). The disease was thought to be eradicated and was not found in a resurvey in 1965 (2). In 1980, however, the canker was found in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia on eastern larch (*Larix laricina* (Du Roi) K. Koch).

This is the first report of the fungus in Canada and, as far as we can ascertain, the first report of the disease on eastern larch in North America.

In 1981, the disease was widespread in the southern half of New Brunswick and in a few areas of Nova Scotia (Fig. 1). Young eastern larch, ranging from 1 to 25 cm diameter, in natural regeneration was affected. Both branch and stem cankers were common, from a few to as many as 20, on single branches or stems. Stem cankers (Fig. 2), the oldest being 5 yr, were present as high as 8 m from the ground.

The incidence in infected stands varied from 3.3 to 100%. In half of these stands incidence was over 80%. Tree mortality attributed to the disease was observed at two of the positive locations.

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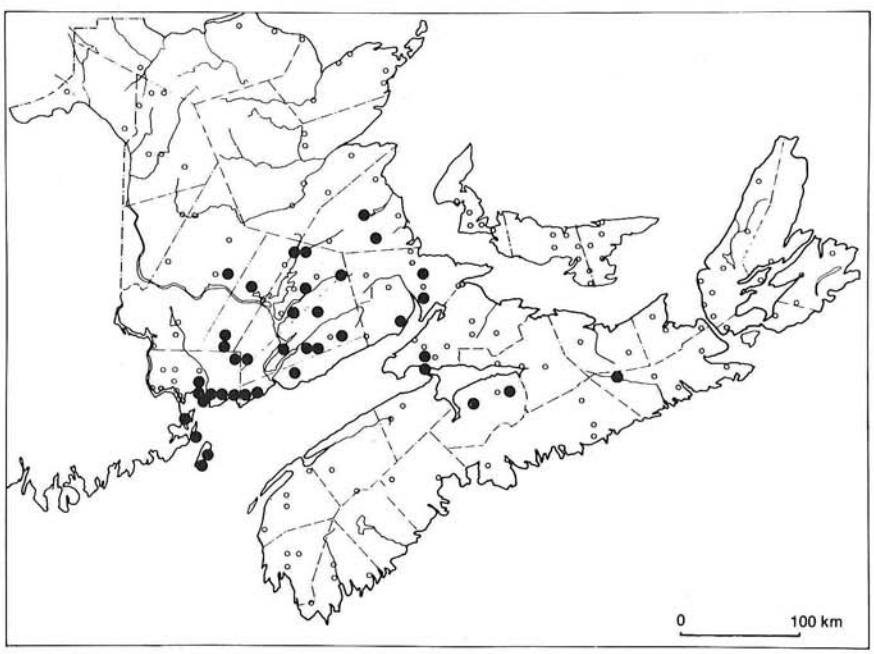

Fig. 1. Distribution of European larch canker on eastern larch in Canada, 1981. • = Found within Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) grid (10 km^2). o = Not found within UTM grid.

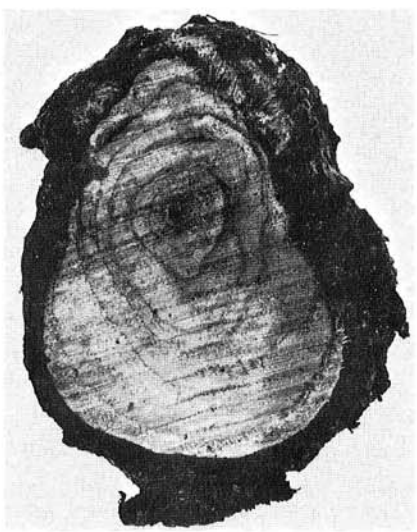

Fig. 2. Cankers caused by *Lachnellula willkommii* deformed the stem of a young eastern larch tree.