



Forest Threats

Quambalaria leaf and shoot blight

Tree Protection Co-operative Programme

Created 17 June 2026

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Fungal diseases

Quambalaria leaf and shoot blight

Quambalaria eucalypti

SYMPTOMS

Quambalaria eucalypti causes leaf and shoot blight on susceptible *Eucalyptus* spp. Lesions are often produced on actively growing shoots and young leaves, resulting in shoot malformation and leaf distortion. Heavy infections can cause shoot death, leading to loss of apical dominance and stunting. May also cause sunken black cankers on the stems (Roux et al. 2006). Under humid conditions, white spore masses form within the lesions.

BIOLOGY

Infection by *Q. eucalypti* begins on young leaves and stem tissue. Conidial germination is triggered by high humidity, with penetration occurring via the stomata or wounds on the leaf surface or juvenile stems. Chlorotic spots develop within five days of infection, with necrotic lesions developing on leaves and new shoots in as little as seven days. Conidiophores and conidia can be present (as powdery white spore masses) on the shoots of infected plants approximately 14 days after infection. *Quambalaria eucalypti* has a rapid disease cycle (Pegg et al. 2009).

