

OCCURRENCE AND DIVERSITY OF *CRYPHONECTRIA PARASITICA* VEGETATIVE COMPATIBILITY TYPES IN GALICIA (NW SPAIN)

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In Galicia (NW Spain), the presence of *Cryphonectria parasitica* (Murrill) Barr, the causal agent of chestnut blight disease, is well known. Despite the severity of this disease, there have been no study dealing with the incidence, distribution and diversity of compatibility groups (VC) of *C. parasitica* in our region. In the present work, results achieved from the inspection of 916 chestnut tree stands in the four galician provinces in 2002 and 2003, carried out in collaboration with the Consellería de Medio Ambiente (Xunta de Galicia), are reported.

Samples of symptomatic chestnut bark were collected and the corresponding isolates of *C. parasitica* obtained. Isolates from each province were matched to establish different vegetative compatibility types. The VC groups found were tested against with 64 european VC types (EU tester). The occurrence of hypovirulent strains of *C. parasitica* was also investigated. Thirty percent of the stands were severely affected by chestnut blight disease, the highest incidence being found in two of the provinces (Lugo and Ourense). Eight VC types were found. The greatest VC types diversity was found in the province of Ourense. Only one group, named VC-E, was compatible with EU-1.