

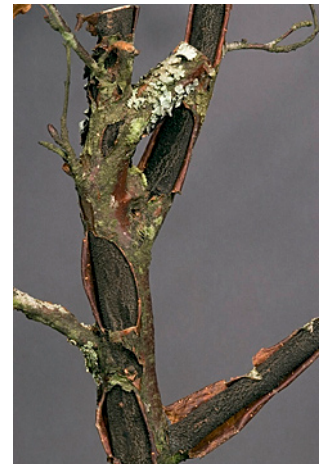
Dieback of Juniper

Dieback and death of mature juniper at a site above Hallswater in the Lake District has been reported this summer. There are up to 100 affected trees in an area of about 1 ha within the site, with symptoms ranging from dieback of scattered branches to death of entire trees (right). Similar dieback of mature juniper has been reported from two other sites in Scotland in the past two years, both of which have SSSI status. Forest Research is currently investigating a number of possible causes for the damage.



Unknown fungus on birch

A previously unreported fungus has been found causing dieback of young birch in Scotland this year. The fungus causes black lesions on young shoots (near right) which expand, causing death of shoots and branches. On dead branches the fungus forms a black stroma on the inner bark, causing the outer bark to peel off (far right). Work is currently underway to identify this fungus. We would be interested in receiving samples from other affected birch trees.



Scale insects

Scale insect (*Pulvinaria regalis*) has been found on lime, sycamore and horse chestnut at a couple of locations within Edinburgh this year. These infestations, which may cause growth reduction in affected trees, were visible on stems and branches as numerous white, waxy, circular spots topped with a brown scale, and were particularly heavy on sycamore (right) and lime. This case is somewhat unusual since this insect is normally restricted in its range to urban trees in southern Britain with outbreaks in Scotland extremely rare.





Ivy and Trees

There is a widely held belief that ivy can damage trees (right). A recent, small study on the growth of ivy (*Hedera helix*) on trees showed that in a managed wood (Douglas fir and Japanese larch) the ivy had no measurable influence on tree growth. However, in an unmanaged wood (oak), growth of trees affected by ivy was reduced. Both ivy and trees showed growth reductions related to periodic droughts. However, ivy was able to recover from drought more quickly than all three tree species. More work is needed to determine the effect of ivy on healthy trees.



Poplar Scab

This year is likely to be a bad year for Poplar Scab on the clonal Manchester poplars (see Path News No 8: July 2004). The disease is caused by the fungus *Pollaccia elegans* (right) and has caused widespread death of Manchester poplars. So far the non-clonal native black poplars have not been affected, but we are anxious to hear of any cases that apparently do involve these native black poplars.

