

# **PHYTOPHTHORA WARS: THE CONTRIBUTION OF RESEARCH IN THE FOREST DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT TO THE FIGHT AGAINST *PHYTOPHTHORA* SPECIES IN NATIVE VEGETATION OF SOUTH-WESTERN AUSTRALIA OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES**

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Most of the significant advances in the understanding and management of *Phytophthora* species in native flora of south-western Australia has come from government funded research in the Forest Department of Western Australia and the Department of Conservation and Land Management. These include:

- Elucidation in the early 1980's of the population dynamics of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in the soil, underpinned hygiene prescriptions.
- Development of sampling procedures allowed for accurate mapping of disease distribution from aerial photography and was the beginning of the current Vegetation Health Service.
- Manipulation of the *Eucalyptus marginata* forest understorey by fire to reduce disease development.

*Second International IUFRO Meeting on Phytophthora in Forests and Natural Ecosystems.*

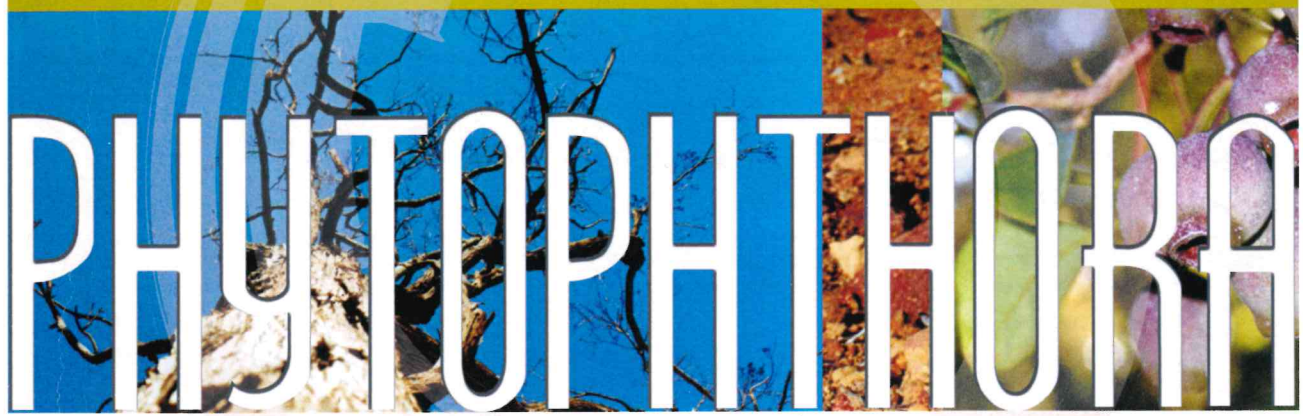
- Identification of the relationship between site characteristics and disease development.
- Identification of resistance in *Pinus radiata* and *E. marginata*.
- Elucidation of the host-pathogen interactions in *E. marginata* and the effects of water relations on the outcomes of the interaction.
- Quantification of the impact of *P. cinnamomi*, *P. citricola* and *P. megasperma* on native plant communities.
- Identification of the potential for phosphite to reduce infection and disease development in native communities and the development of application procedures to protect rare and endangered flora.

Future advances will depend on addressing the current minimum commitment of resources to *Phytophthora* research.

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