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# **Armillaria root disease in native forest and woodlands in the southwest**

**Dr Richard Robinson**

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## **CV**

Dr Richard Robinson is a Research Scientist with the Science Division in the Department of Environment and Conservation. Based at the Manjimup Research Centre since 1996, his work involves investigating the impacts of forest management on fungal communities and disease and defect caused by wood rotting fungi. His area of expertise is in the control and management of *Armillaria* root disease, the adaption of fungi to fire, the succession of fungal communities following fire, and the biology and ecology of wood decay fungi.

## **ABSTRACT**

*Armillaria luteobubalina* is an endemic pathogen of sclerophyll forests and woodlands of southern Australia. The fungus infects the roots of susceptible hosts causing a root and butt rot, commonly referred to as *Armillaria* root disease (ARD). Under natural conditions, *A. luteobubalina* exists in a state of balance, but in modified or changing environments it appears to be more aggressive. In jarrah and wandoo stands, *A. luteobubalina* causes scattered or patchy deaths and crown decline. In wetter high quality regrowth karri stands, *A. luteobubalina* causes significant losses due to mortality and defect, which are exacerbated by intensive management practices such as thinning. Loss of roots due to rot often result in wind-thrown trees. Outside the forest environment, *A. luteobubalina* has also been recorded causing significant losses in some coastal heath and woodlands communities.

October 2008  
Yorke, WA

# 5 Year review - wandoo crown decline

## PROGRAM

- 8:30 am      Registration  
*Attendees provided with information pack*  
*Publications on wandoo and other tree declines*
- 8:50 am      Video / slide show – wandoo decline across the landscape and  
*presentation about sponsors*
- 9:00 am      **Welcome and introduction**  
*Alan Sands, Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC)*
- Chair: Alan Sands (DEC)**
- 9:05 am      Opening Address – Alan Sands, DEC
- 9:15 am      Setting the scene - Liz Manning / Bruce McGregor, Wandoo  
*Recovery Group*
- 9:30 am      Survey and mapping  
*Community based surveys, 2006-2008 (Kim Whitford, DEC)*  
*Observations from Wundabiniring Brook (Allan Wills, DEC)*  
*Surveys of wandoo decline, 2002 & 2008 (Jack Mercer, consultant)*
- 10:20 am      Panel discussion
- 10:30 am      **Morning tea**
- Chair: Peter White (DEC)**
- 10:50 am      Research projects  
*Historical review of wandoo (Dr Andrea Gaynor, University of  
Western Australia)*  
*Water relations and genetic variability of wandoo (Dr Erik  
Veneklaas UWA)*  
*Insects and fungal pathogens (Ryan Hooper, PhD student UWA)*
- 12.00 noon      Panel discussion