UConn Plant Diagnostic Lab: The New, Unusual or Previously Unencountered

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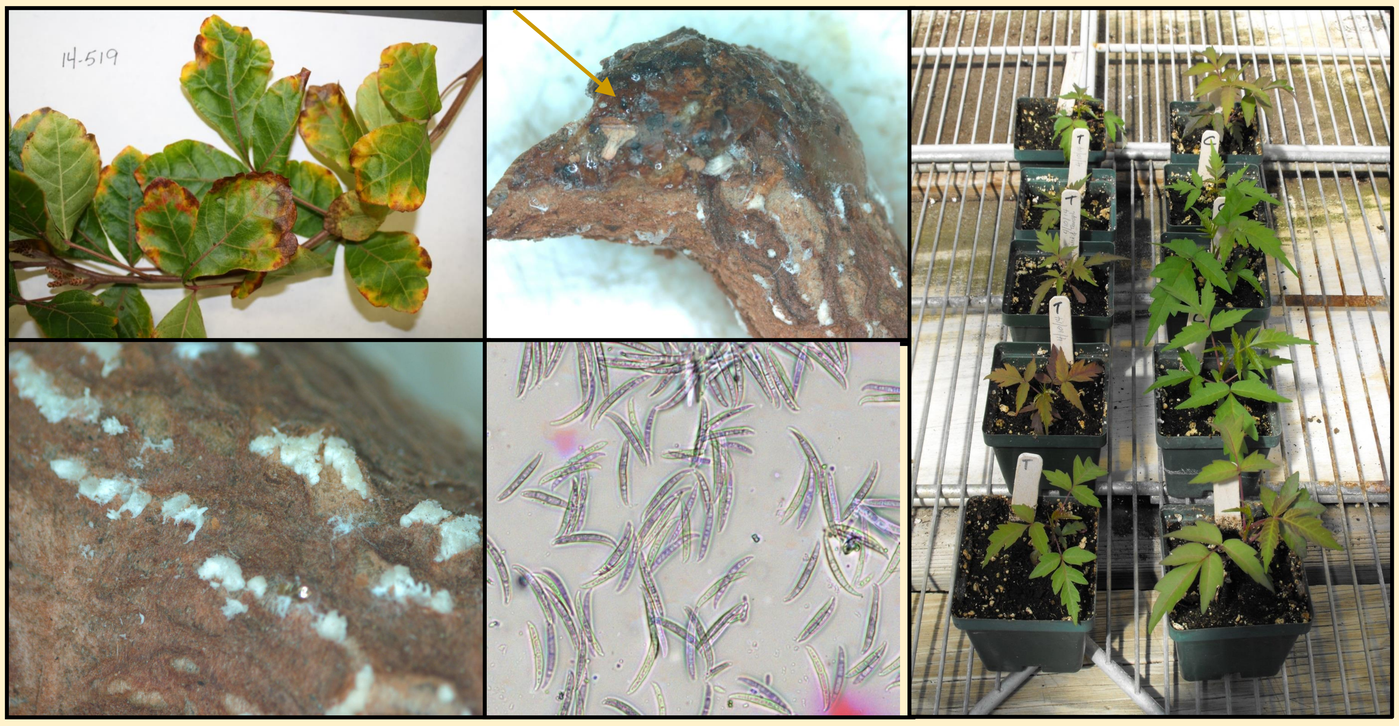

Fusarium wilt of fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*) caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *rhois* (awaiting molecular confirmation). Symptoms and signs were similar to those described for mimosa wilt (*F. oxysporum* f.sp. *perniciosum*) (Sinclair & Lyon, 2005). Symptoms include leaf scorch, dieback, and gummosis (at arrow). Macroconidia of the pathogen were produced in lenticels in the bark as shown lower left. Koch's postulates were fulfilled. In the photo on the right, inoculated plants on the left are stunted and browning compared to the uninoculated controls on the right.

Bacterial canker of pepper caused by *Clavibacter michiganensis* pv. *michiganensis*. Bacterial canker, an important disease of tomato, has been popping up in various states in pepper in recent years. It was confirmed on pepper for the first time in Connecticut during summer of 2015. The varieties affected were 'Yummy Orange' & 'Yummy Mix'. Disease was confirmed using an Agdia Immunostrip®.

Short-winged blister beetle (*Meloe campanicollis*) caused significant damage on Brassica crops on a farm in Connecticut in fall of 2014. Feeding occurred in Brassica crops that were interspersed between other crops. The farmer reported that the population had been building up over a couple of years. The newly hatched larvae of this beetle move to a weed or flower and attract solitary bees which they attach to for a ride to the bees' nearby burrow. Once in the burrow, the larva consumes food meant for the immature bees and the bees, too. Blister beetles exude a liquid when handled that can blister skin and is toxic to livestock.

The **spinach crown mite (Rhizoglyphus sp.)** was found associated with deformed and tattered leaves on high tunnel spinach in Connecticut in mid April 2015. While bulb mites are not new to Connecticut, this was the first known report of this pest in spinach. It has been noted previously in California, Vermont, and New Jersey. Crown mites were described on spinach in California as early as 1949. Note the setae on the rear of the abdomen in the lower left photo. Infestation is favored by cool, damp weather and high organic matter in the growing substrate.

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