# Morphological and Molecular Relatedness of Geographically Diverse Isolates of *Coniothyrium zuluense* from South Africa and Thailand[1]

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## Abstract

*Coniothyrium* canker, caused by *Coniothyrium zuluense*, is a serious stem canker disease of Eucalyptus in subtropical parts of South Africa. A *Coniothyrium* associated with similar symptoms to those in South Africa was observed on *E. camaldulensis* in 1996 in Thailand. It was previously thought that *C. zuluense* was restricted to South Africa. This study compares South African isolates of *C. zuluense* with isolates of the *Coniothyrium* from Thailand. Results of morphological comparisons indicate that the South African and Thailand isolates are the same. This was further confirmed when all *Coniothyrium* isolates associated with stem cankers on *Eucalyptus* spp. grouped together in a single major clade for both rDNA sequence data and AFLP analysis. This clade was distant from isolates of other *Coniothyrium* spp. included for comparative purposes. Although the *Coniothyrium* isolates from South Africa and Thailand resided in two separate clades, these were closely related and, we believe that the isolates from Thailand represent *C. zuluense*. This is the first record of the important Eucalyptus stem canker pathogen outside South Africa.

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[1] VAN ZYL, Len M.; Teresa A. COUTINHO; Michael J. WINGFIELD; Krisna PONGPANICH and Brenda D. WINGFIELD. 2002. Morphological and molecular relatedness of geographically diverse isolates of *Coniothyrium zuluense* from South Africa and Thailand. The British Mycological Society, *Mycol. Res.* 106 (1) : 51-59.

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