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## Diseases of *Eucalyptus* in Thailand and Options for Reducing their Impact<sup>1</sup>

Krisna Pongpanich<sup>2</sup>

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### Abstract

The most commonly grown *Eucalyptus* species in Thailand is *E. camaldulensis*, with a present plantation area of no less than 400 000 ha. Fungal diseases are a major problem in eucalypts and at least 25 species of fungi have been found to cause damage to foliage, shoots, twigs, branches and stems. The most important diseases in the plantations are leaf and shoot blight caused by *Cryptosporiopsis eucalypti* and branch and stem cankers associated with fungi of the coelomycete and ascomycete groups. Disease management using chemicals was found helpful in controlling the damage to nursery stock. In plantations, the most effective control method is genetic selection for resistance. Promising results were obtained in experimental trials with *E. camaldulensis* for selection of leaf and shoot blight resistant clones.

### Introduction

Eucalypts have been extensively planted in Thailand. The total area under eucalypts is now estimated to be 400 000 ha. The most common species planted is *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* while others such as *E. urophylla* and *E. deglupta* are also grown. In addition to industrial scale plantations, commune and farm-scale plantings which make a significant contribution to household incomes are also common. The annual planting rate of *E. camaldulensis* has increased markedly over the past ten years in response to high demand for wood, especially chips and poles, for both domestic consumption and export, and for use in furniture and small construction. This trend will continue in future, but the appearance of severe foliage, shoot and stem diseases is now posing a threat. With continued expansion of

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<sup>1</sup> Krisna Pongpanich. 1998. Diseases of *Eucalyptus* in Thailand and Options for Reducing their Impact. In: C. Hutacharern and K.S.S Nair ed., FORSPAPublication: 30/2002. Proceedings of the IUFRO/FAO Workshop on " Pests Management in Tropical Forest Plantations ", May 1998, Chanthaburi, Thailand. 47-52.

<sup>2</sup> Forest Pathology and Microbiology Group, Forest Research Office. Royal Forest Department, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand