



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Cocoa brown root rot (003)



Photo 1. Sterile crust of *Phellinus noxius* on the outside of cocoa trunks. The brown crust has a distinct white margin.

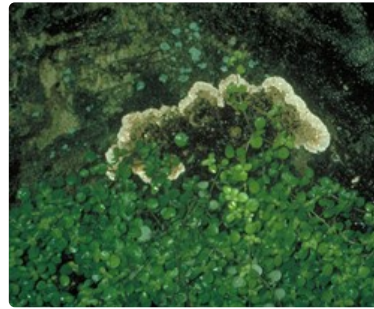


Photo 2. Sterile crust of *Phellinus noxius* on a breadfruit trunk.



Photo 3. Bracket belonging to *Phellinus noxius* on a forest tree left for shade adjacent to the cocoa tree with a sterile "stocking" (seen in Photo 1).



Photo 4. Bracket of *Phellinus noxius* on the trunk of *Leucaena leucocephala*.

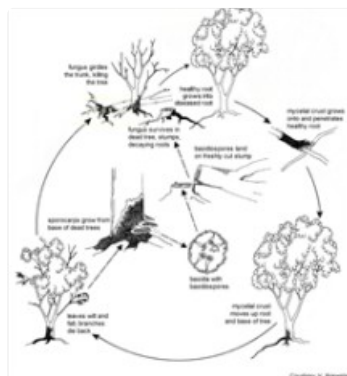


Diagram. Disease cycle of *Phellinus noxius*.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. In the tropics. The fungus has a wide host range, attacking native and exotic forest trees, plantation crops, including cocoa (and shade trees), oil palm, rubber, coffee. Attacks breadfruit (Pingelap disease). An important disease.

- Spores of the fungus infect tree stumps as land is cleared. The fungus travels along the roots to healthy trees, growing up to 1 m on the trunk as a thick brown crust, causing death. Brackets form on the old tree stumps 3-4 years after infection.
- Cultural control: survey plantations 6-monthly for brackets on stumps, and crusts on trunks; if seen, remove with all roots over 2.5 cm diameter.
- Chemical control: none recommended.

Common Name

Brown root rot

Scientific Name

Phellinus noxius

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Diagram APShet Education Center. Brown root rot. The American Phytopathological Society. (<http://www.apsnet.org/edcenter/intropp/lessons/fungi/Basidiomycetes/Pages/BrownRootRot.aspx>).

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This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds*

The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.

