

***Tomicus piniperda* as a vector of *Fusarium circinatum* in *Pinus radiata* plantations in Cantabria (Spain).**

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Fusarium circinatum is the causal agent of pitch canker disease which is currently affecting *Pinus radiata* plantations in northern Spain. The main symptom of the disease is the presence of pitch soaked cankers in trunks and big branches. *Fusarium circinatum* needs a wound to infect the tree, as those caused by insects. Species from the Subfamily Scolytinae, as *Pityophthorus pubescens* or *Hylurgops palliatus*, have been reported as vectors of this pathogen. The aim of this study is to know the role of *Tomicus piniperda* as a vector of this fungus in *P. radiata* plantations in Cantabria (Spain). For this purpose 954 shoots with *T. piniperda* feeding gallery were collected during 2011 and 2012 from five *F. circinatum* affected plots. Moreover, an experiment was set in the laboratory for testing the capability of *T. piniperda* in transmitting the disease as they had been previously inoculated with the pathogen. Inoculated insects were feeding in healthy shoots. Feeding gallery and necrosis reaction length were measured. Ethanol and α -pinene baited funnel traps were also set in affected plots. Vegetal tissues and insects were cultured in Potato Dextrose Agar media. *Fusarium circinatum* was isolated from both field (11.42%) and lab shoots feeding galleries. Lower rates of *F. circinatum* presence were isolated from insects collected in funnel traps. *Tomicus piniperda* becomes an important candidate for transmitting the disease, since it is a primary pest as it feeds on *P. radiata* healthy crowns.