

Effects of Pruning on Pitch Canker Disease in *Pinus radiata* Plantations

D. Bezos, J. M. Lomba, P. Martínez-Álvarez, M. Fernández, J. J. Diez

*Sustainable Forest Management Research Institute, University of Valladolid – INIA.
Avenida Madrid, 57. 34004 Palencia, Spain.*

dbezosg@funges.uva.es

Fusarium circinatum (Nirenberg and O'Donnell 1998) is the causal agent of Pitch Canker Disease (PCD) in *Pinus* species, causing necrosis and deformation in trunk as well as dieback. The disease appeared recently in northern Spain associated to *Pinus* spp. seedlings at forest nurseries, and *P. radiata* plantations in the forest. The aim of the present study was to evaluate the effect of pruning on PCD in *Pinus radiata* plantations in Cantabria, so the study was carried out on 50 *Pinus radiata* plots (pruned and unpruned) distributed along this region. Symptoms of PCD were evaluated in 25 trees in each plot following the ICP Forest methodology and were related with dendrometric factors including pruning. A significant relationship was found between pruning and the number of cankers per tree concluding that management affects PCD severity.