

# EMERGING PEST AND DISEASE THREATS: ASH DIEBACK (*HYMENOSCYPHUS FRAXINEUS*) ON NON-FRAXINUS HOSTS

Ash Dieback is responsible for causing severe dieback on ash species across Europe (including *Fraxinus excelsior* and *F. angustifolia*). It is caused by an the invasive fungal pathogen *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* which blocks the water transport systems in trees, causing crown dieback, lesions and the eventual death of the tree. The disease was first detected in Poland and has subsequently spread to most European countries. Recently, *H. fraxineus* has been detected on the non-*Fraxinus* hosts *Phillyrea latifolia*, *P. angustifolia* and *Chionanthus virginicus* in isolated locations where *H. fraxineus* spore levels were high. This finding is the first non-ash host record worldwide. Ash dieback is a severe threat to Global ash populations and the increased spread through non-*Fraxinus* hosts is a major concern. The IPSN is therefore conducting a survey to assess whether any further findings of Ash Dieback on *Phillyrea* and *Chionanthus spp.* have been recorded.

## *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* symptoms on non-*Fraxinus* hosts:



Extensive dieback of branches caused by *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* shown on *Chionanthus virginicus*



*Chionanthus virginicus* showing shrivelled blackened shoots, a characteristic symptom of ash dieback



Ash Dieback causes diamond shaped lesions on the stems/trunks of infected trees. Shown on *Phillyrea latifolia*.



*Phillyrea latifolia* exhibiting leaf and stem dieback



Ash dieback causes black blotches on leaves (often at the leaf base and midrib). Shown on *Phillyrea angustifolia*.



From July to October, small white fruiting bodies can be found on leaf stalks (shown on *Fraxinus spp.*)

REPORT ANY SUSPECTED SIGHTINGS TO \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_