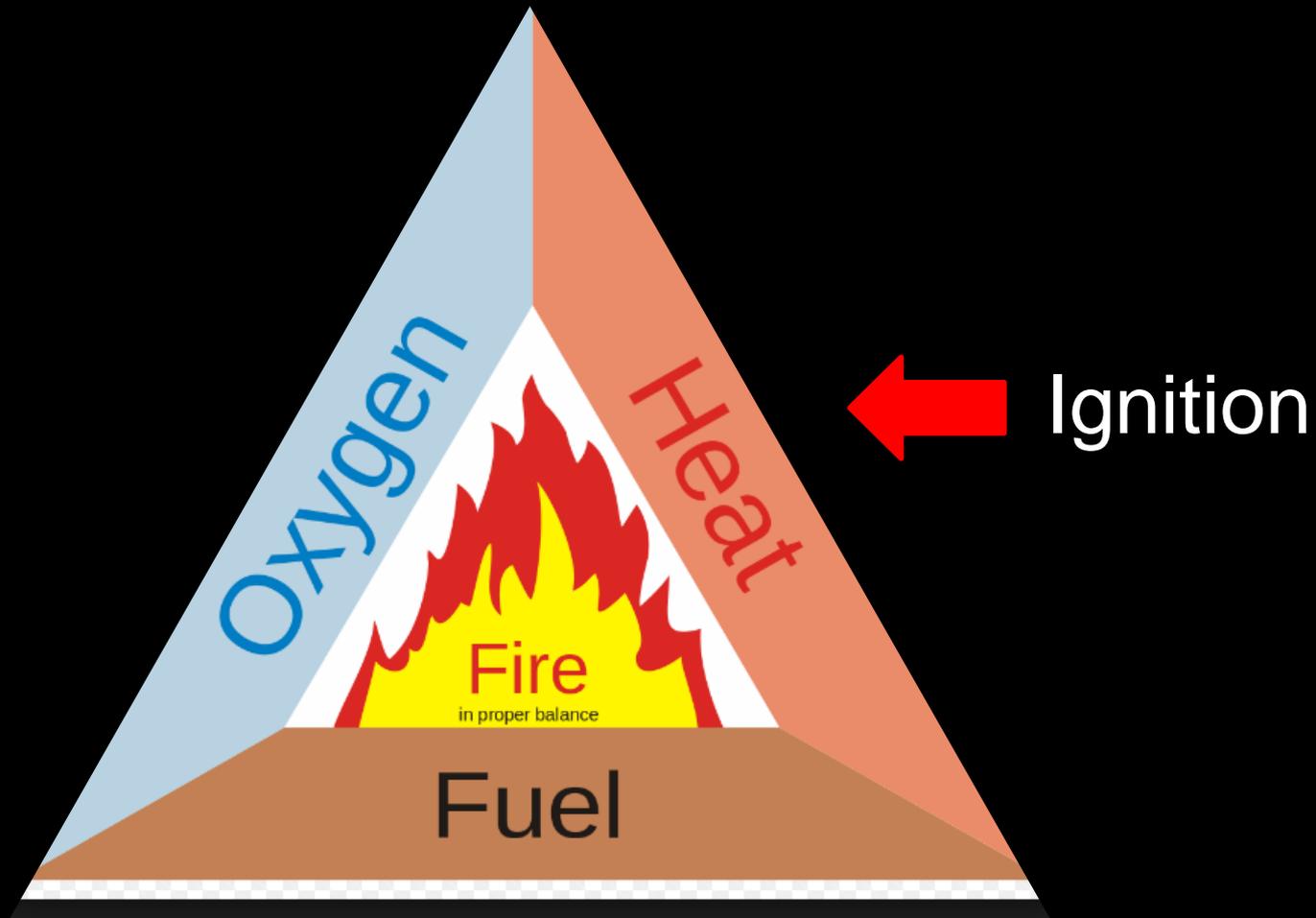
An aerial photograph of a dense forest. Numerous red arrows are overlaid on the image, pointing to specific trees or areas within the canopy, likely indicating areas of interest or concern. A road is visible in the upper left portion of the image.

# CA Tree School 2025

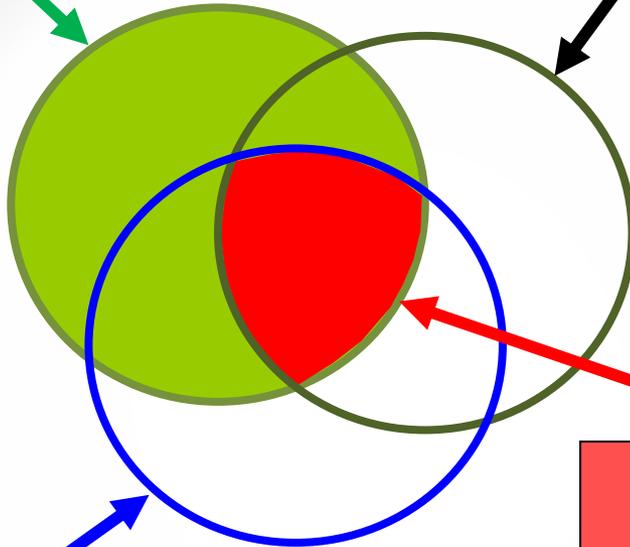
**Dr. Martin MacKenzie**  
**Forest Pathologist**  
USDA Forest Service,  
Forest Health Protection  
South Sierra Shared Service Area  
Sonora, California



The Fire Triangle

Host

Pathogen.

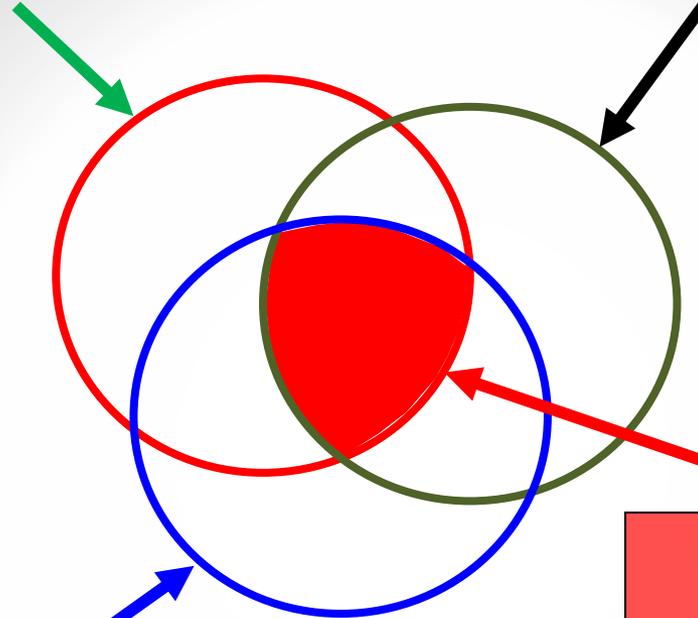


Disease

Environment

Presence of Root Diseases

Disposition of Bark Beetles.



Drought or Climate Change

Fate of the individual tree.  
i.e Health, decline or death !

*It's a complex because,*

*One can not separate the insects from the fungi they facilitate and vice versa!*

# Drought deciduous















Drought deciduous

Drought deciduous

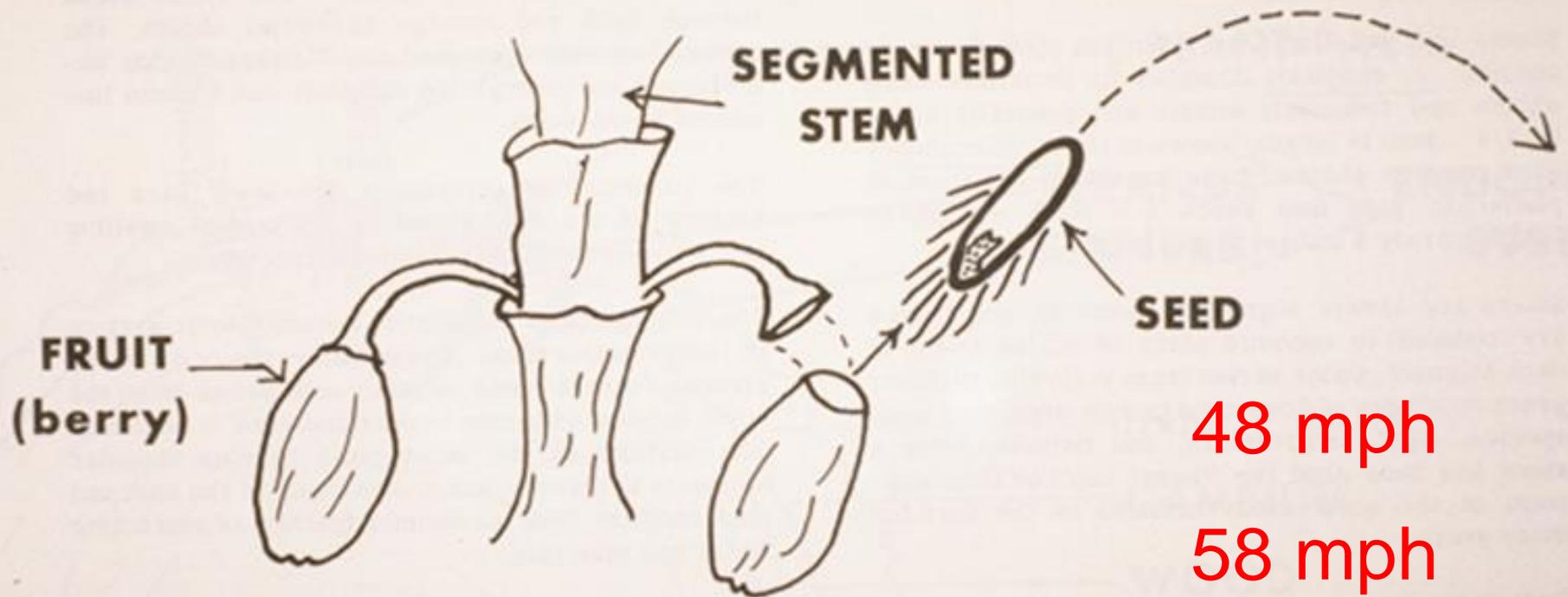


Drought deciduous

# The World's Fastest land plant !

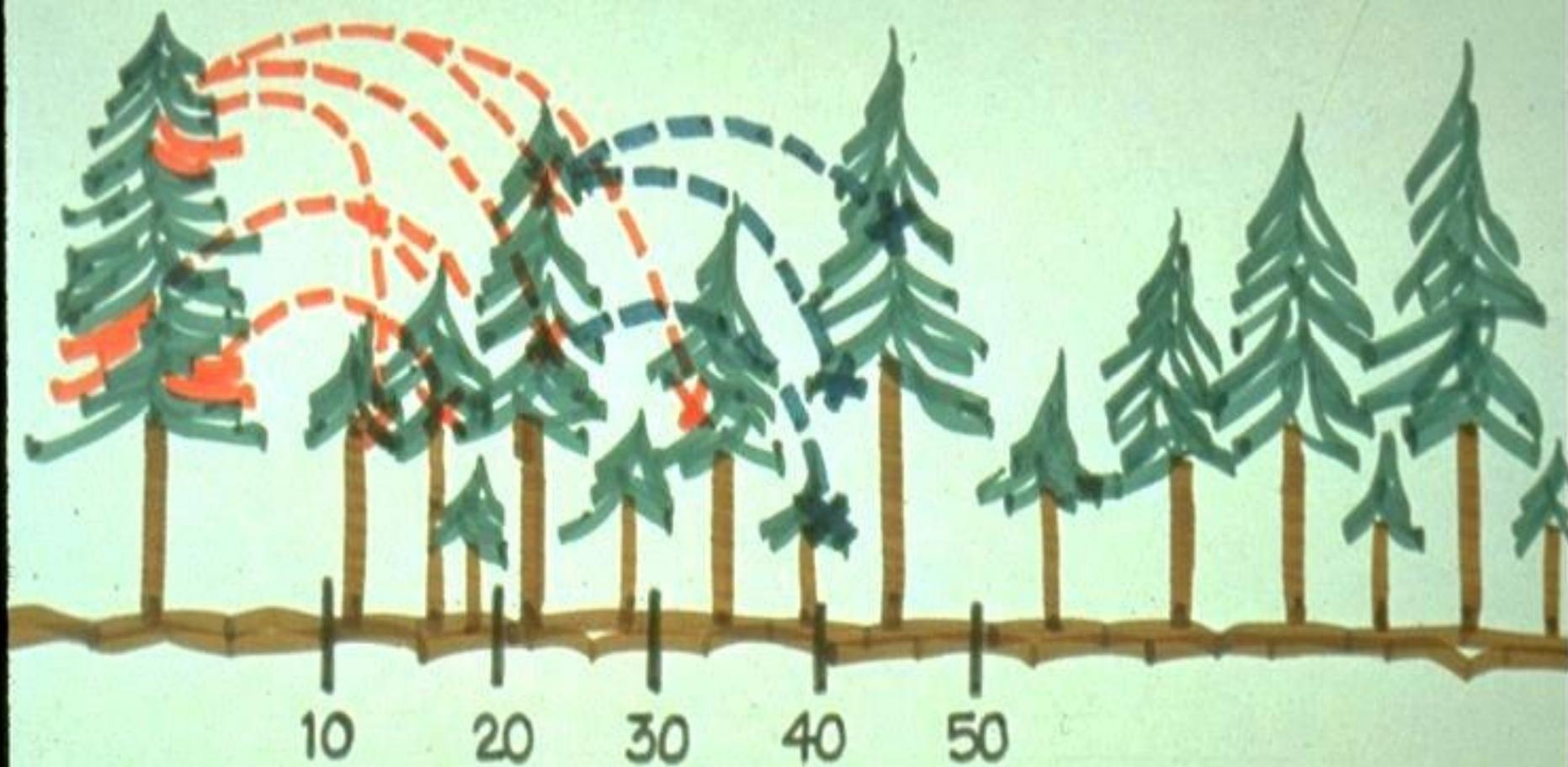


# Dwarf Mistletoes explosively disperse their seeds to new trees or new branches within the same crown



The plant shoots out and up sticky seeds and then gravity takes over.

*Hinds & Hawksworth (1965)*

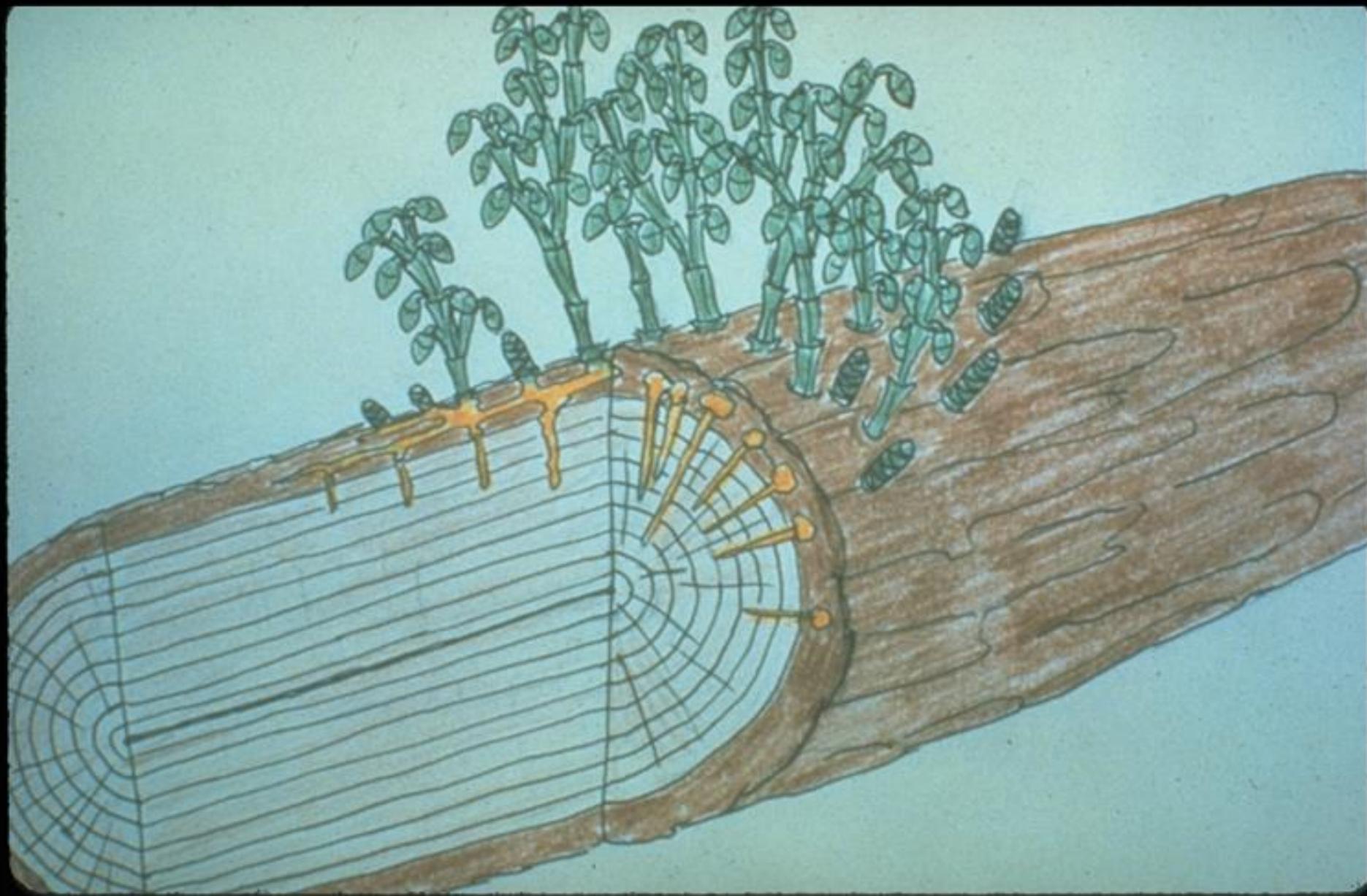




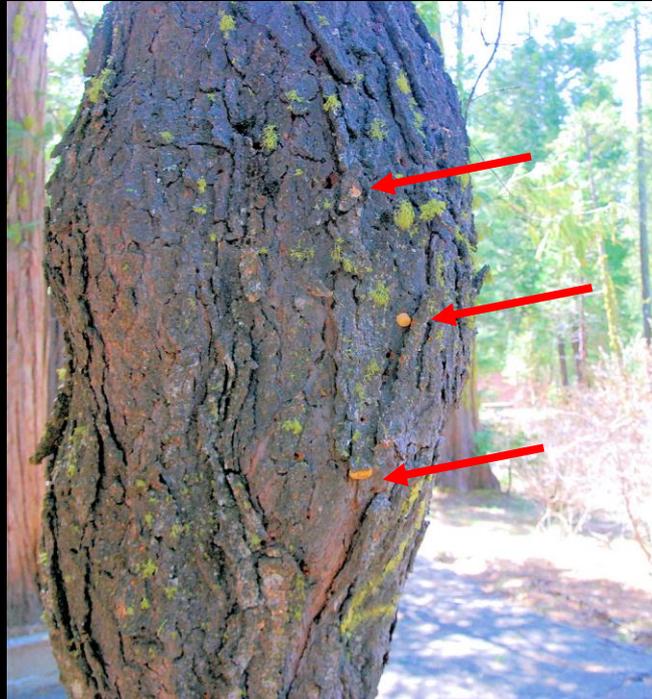
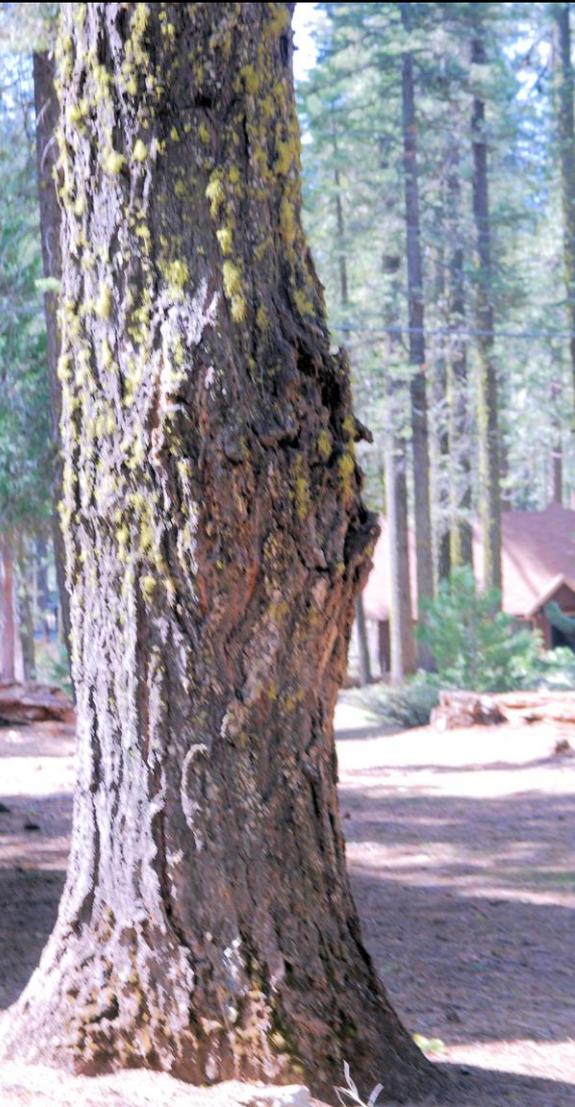
*Red Fir Dwarf Mistletoe*

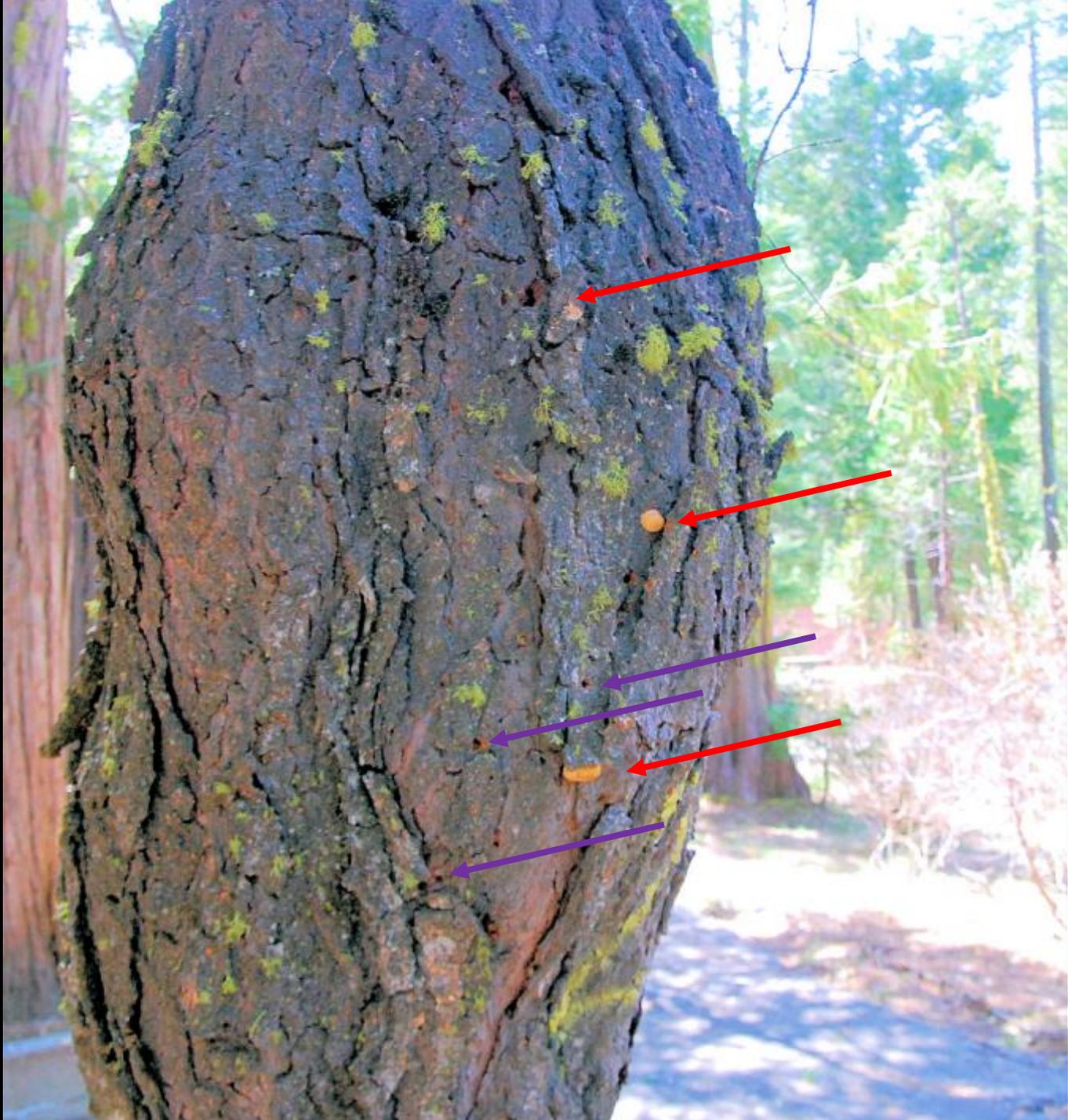


APR 18 2007



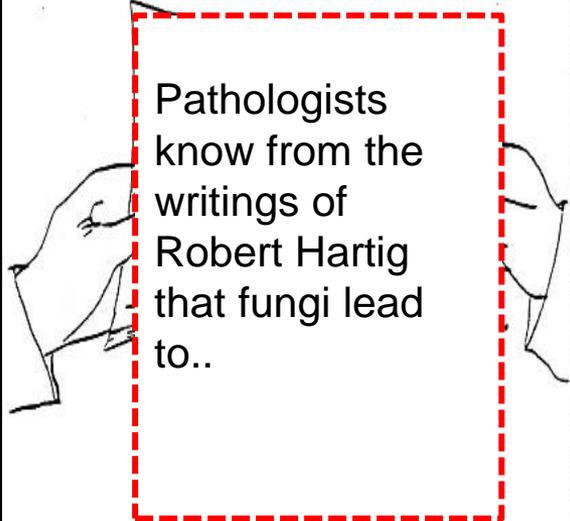






*Al Bark*

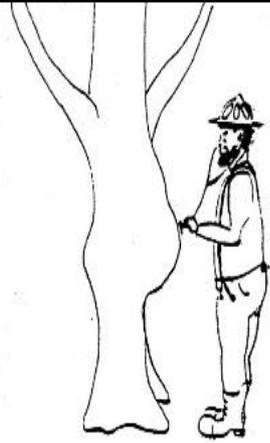
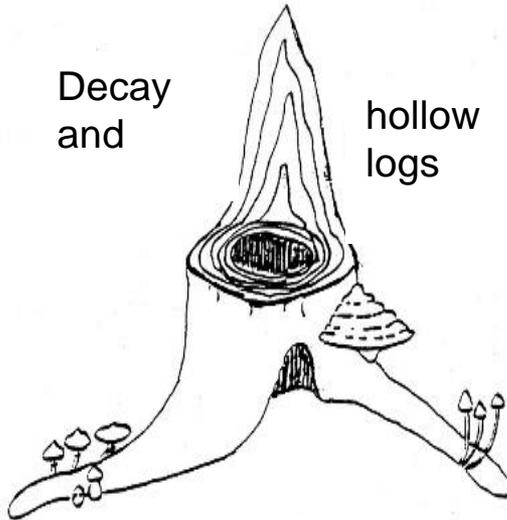
*by M. MacKenzie*



Pathologists  
know from the  
writings of  
Robert Hartig  
that fungi lead  
to..

Decay  
and

hollow  
logs



However, the cause of  
some conditions eludes us  
still.



***Cytospora***



**Spore threads issuing from pycnidia  
embedded in the dead bark**

***Abies  
magnifica***



***“There can be a healthy amount of death or disease in a healthy forest!”***

***Abies  
magnifica***







# With Dwarf Mistletoes



# With Dwarf Mistletoe



2009

2010

2014

2011

2012

2013

# Without Dwarf Mistletoes



2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

Presence of Root Diseases

Disposition of Bark Beetles.

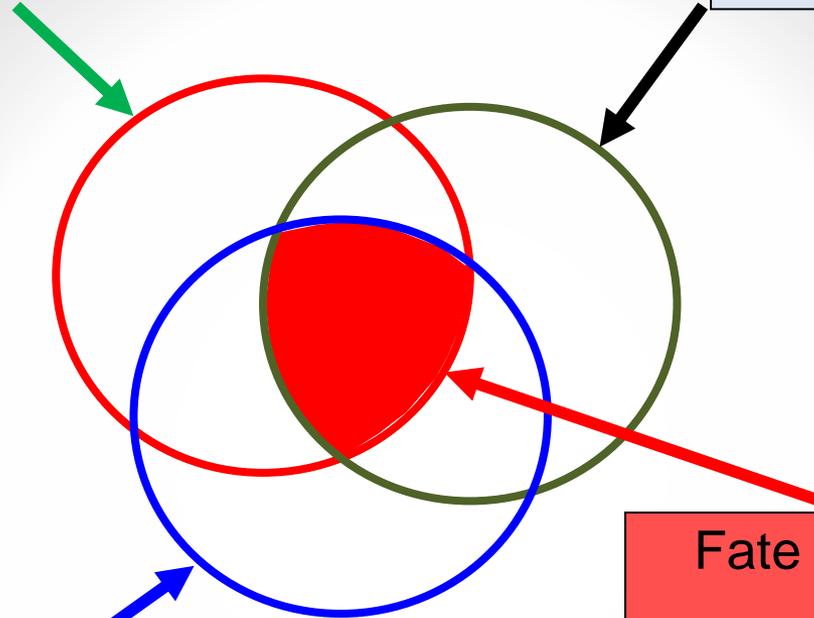
2010

Drought or Climate Change

Fate of the individual tree.  
i.e Health, decline or death !

*It's a complex because,*

*One can not separate the insects from the fungi they facilitate and vice versa!*



# Without Dwarf Mistletoes



2010 ←

2011

2012

2013

2014

# Without Dwarf Mistletoes



2010

2011

2012

2013

→ 2014

Presence of Root Diseases

Disposition of Bark Beetles.

2014

Drought or Climate Change

Fate of the individual tree.  
i.e, Death !



*It's a complex because,  
One can not separate the insects from the fungi they facilitate  
and vice versa!*

Presence of Root Diseases



Disposition of Bark Beetles.

2010

Drought or Climate Change

Fate of the individual tree.  
i.e Health or Decline

*It's a complex because,*

*One can not separate the insects from the fungi they facilitate and vice versa!*

With Dwarf Mistletoes

2014



Armillaria Root Rot:

Resinosus









Armillaria root disease

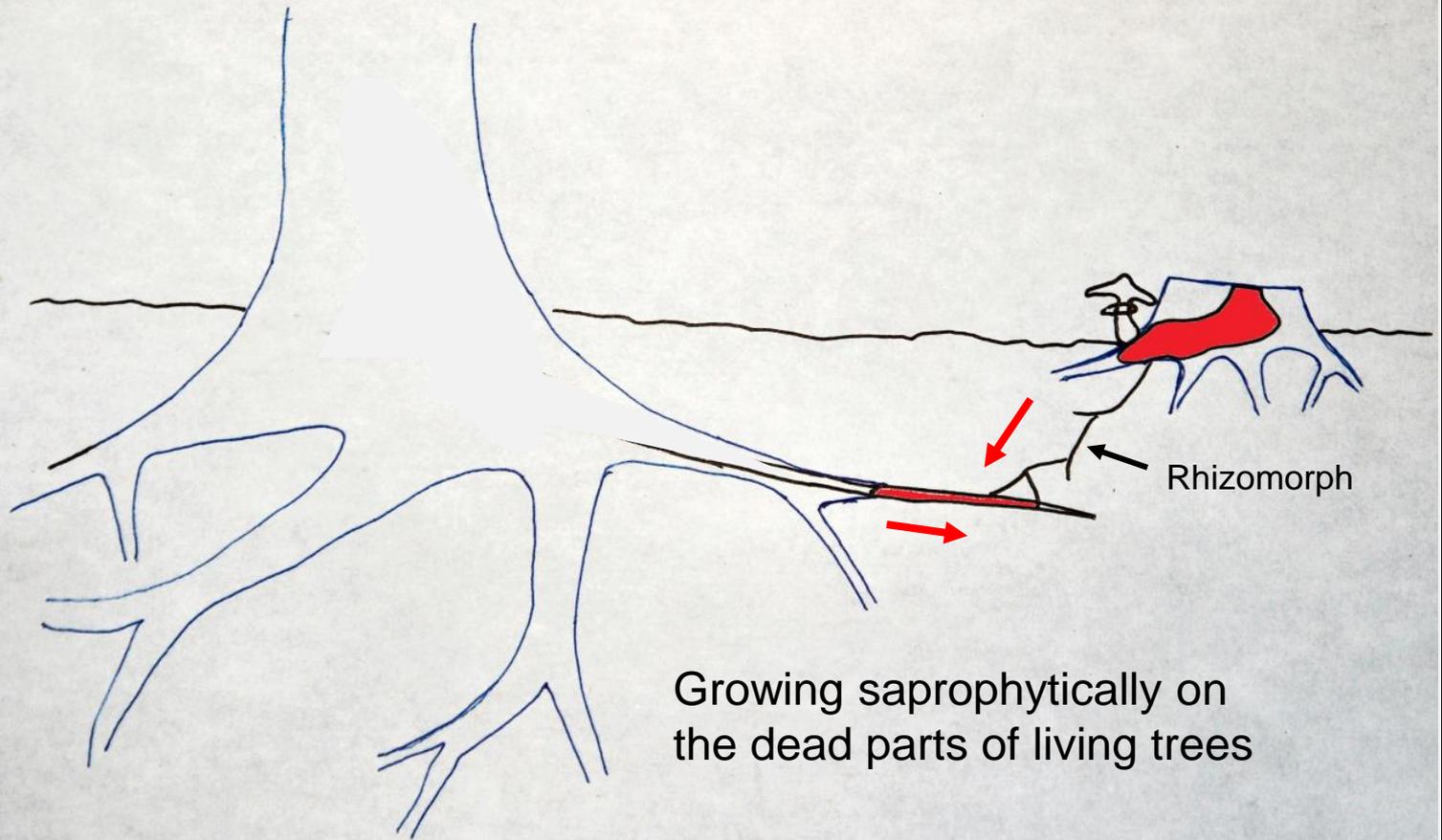




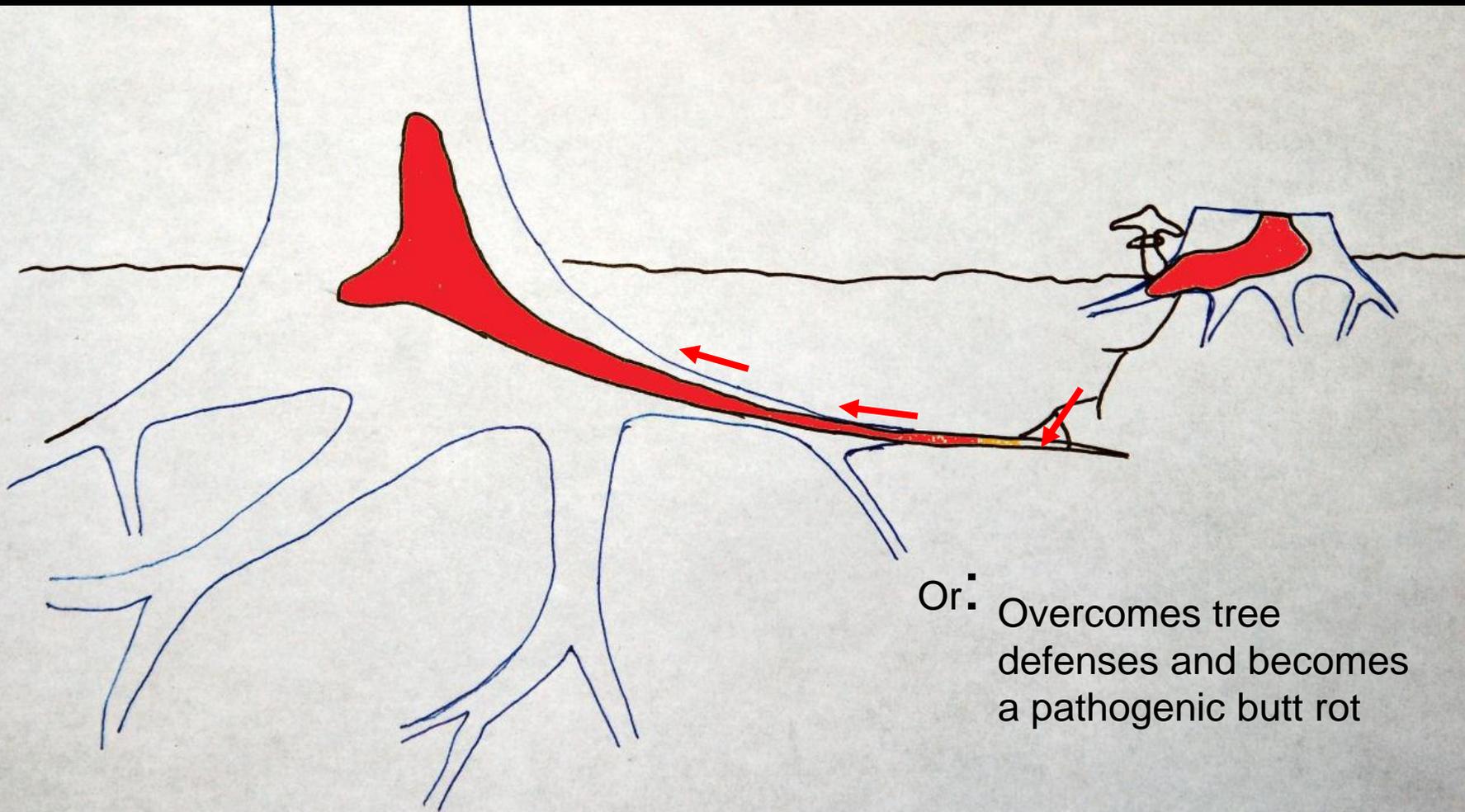




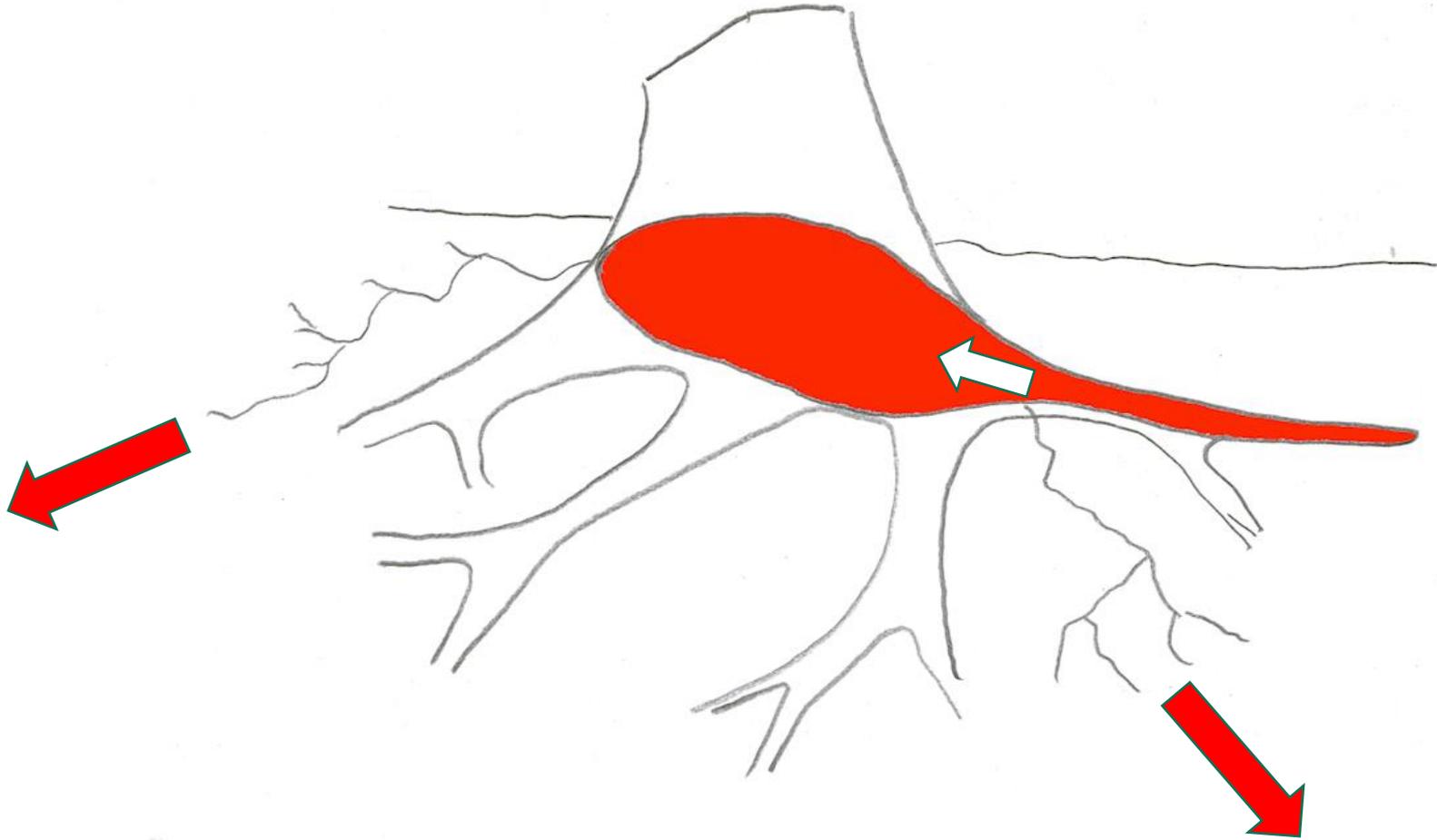




Growing saprophytically on  
the dead parts of living trees

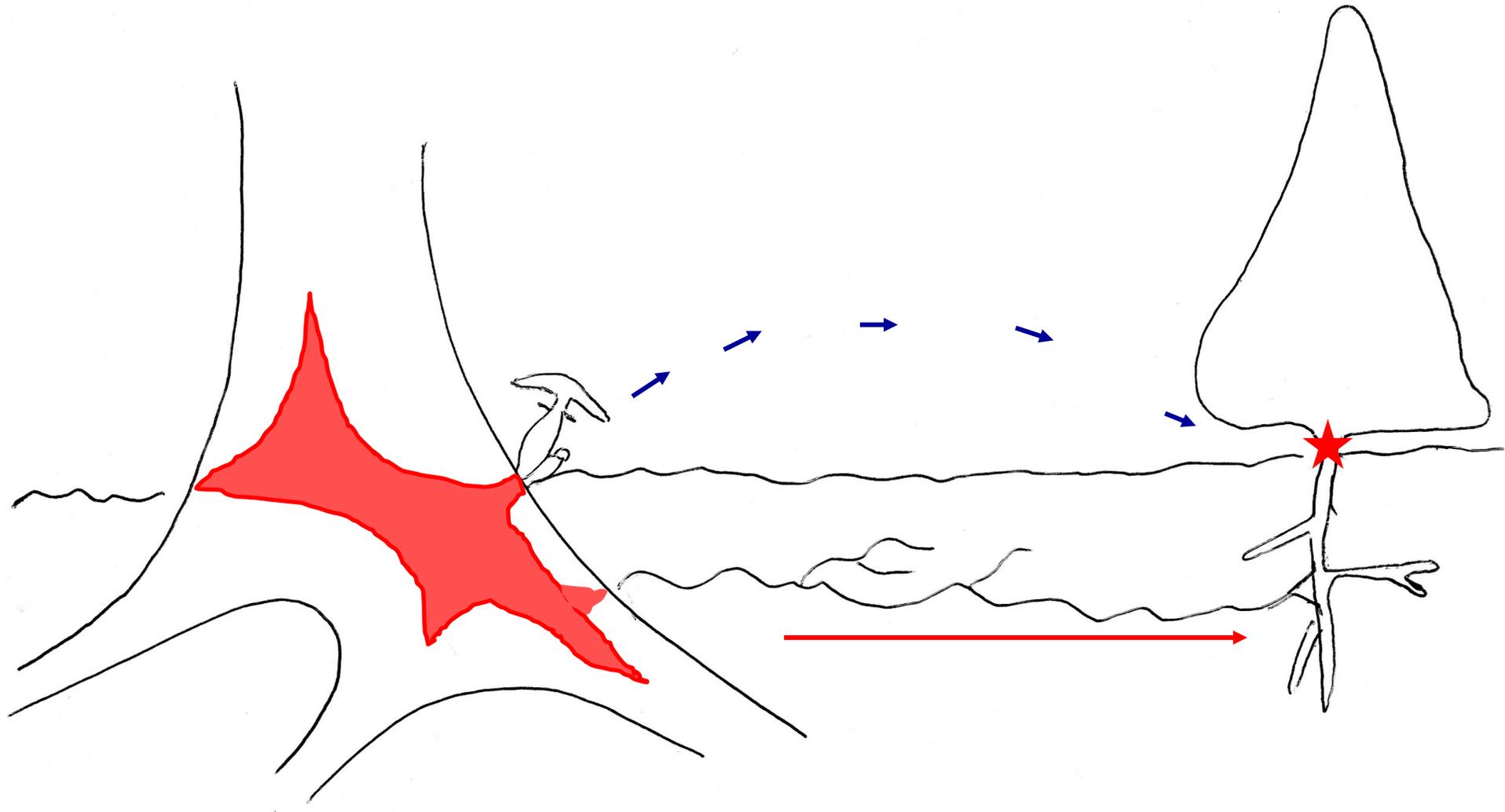


Or: Overcomes tree defenses and becomes a pathogenic butt rot



## Means of spread by this fungus

1. Above ground by spores, to new pockets (long distance)
2. Below ground by Rhizomorphs, within pocket (short distance)

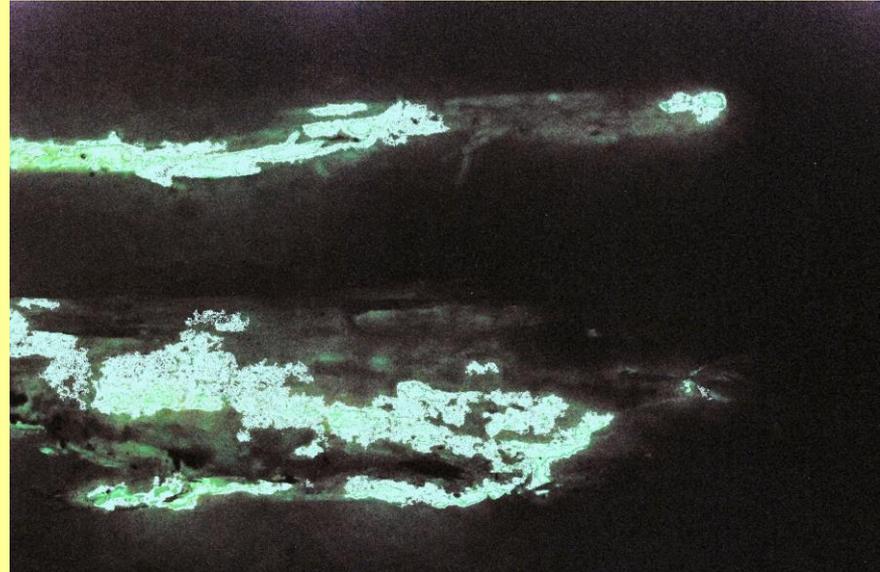






# Armillaria rot glows in the dark.

Shot at ISO 1600, f 3.3 & 30 sec with 60mm macro on a Nikon D80

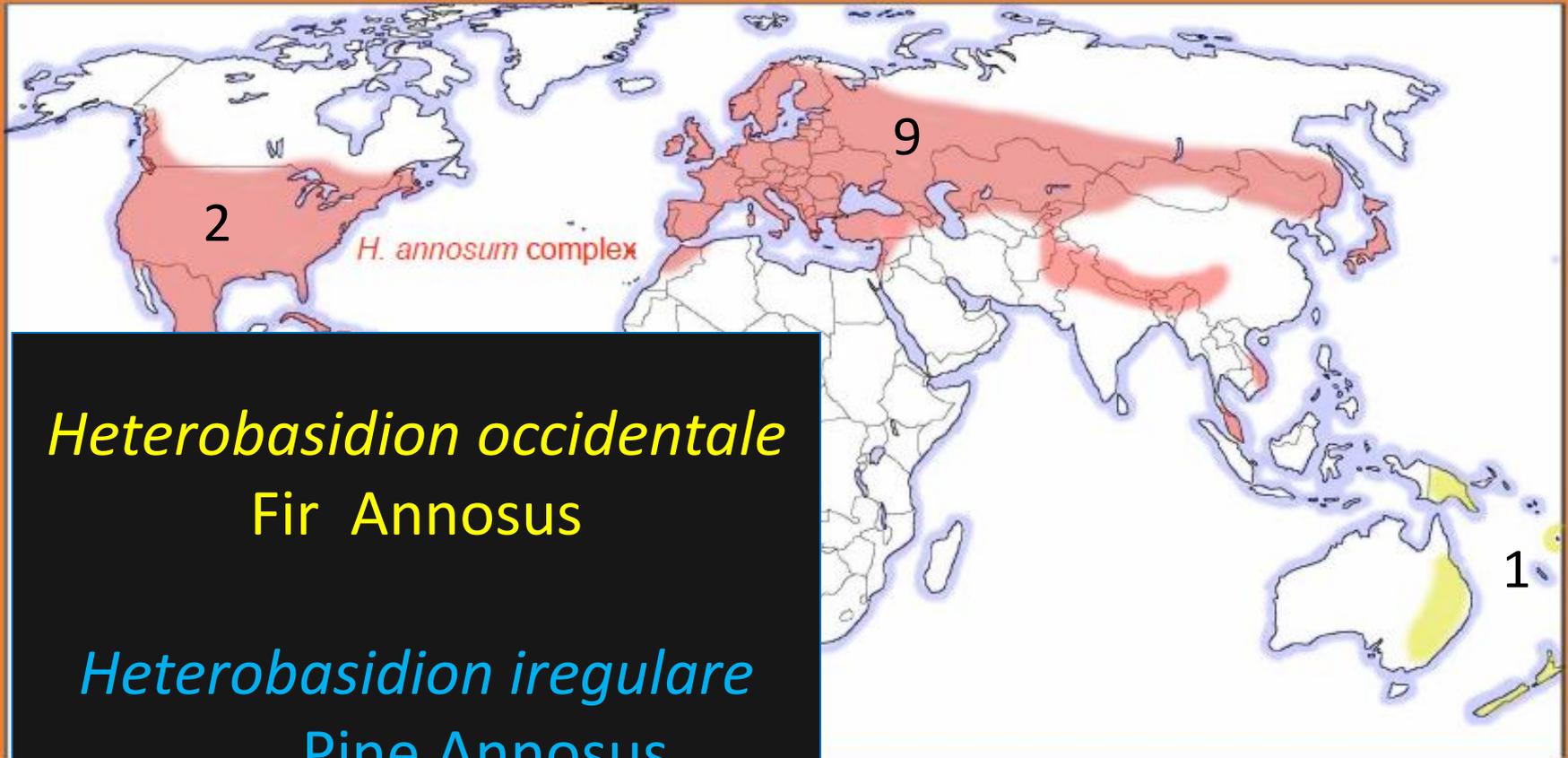


# Whitaker's Forest



# *Heterobasidion* spp. distribution (Korhonen, 2004)

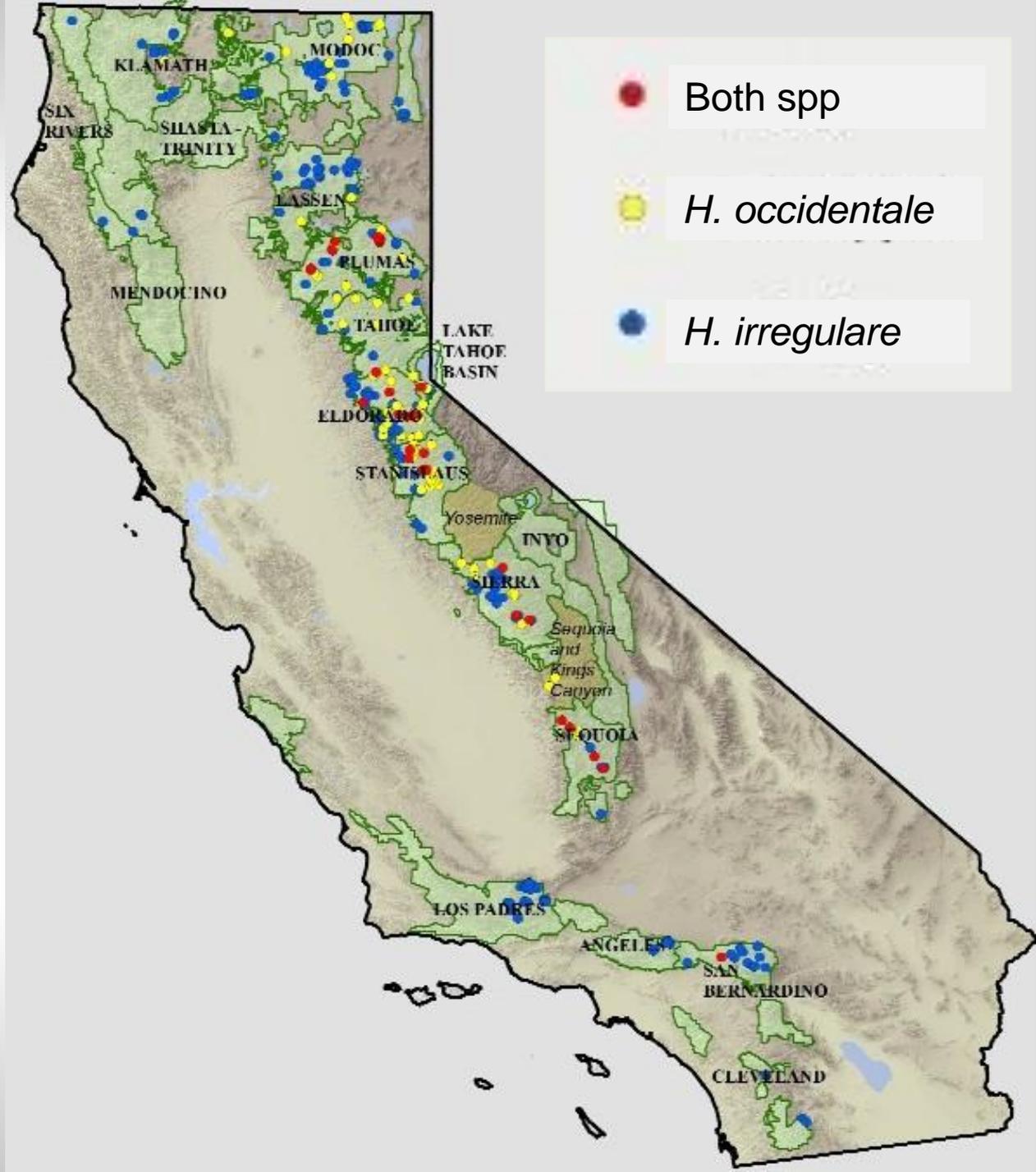
Species complex, 6 species



*Heterobasidion occidentale*  
Fir Annosus

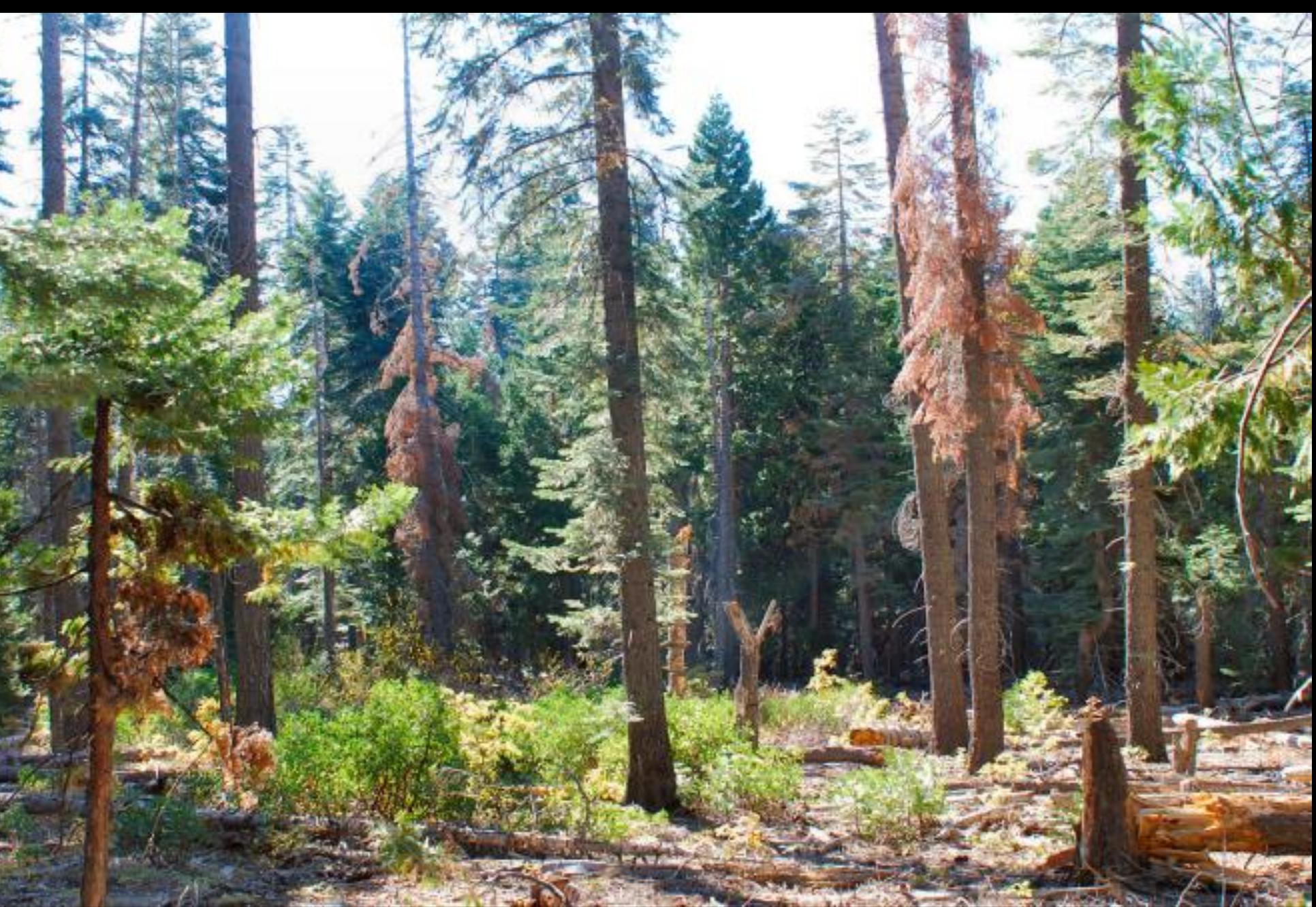
*Heterobasidion irregulare*  
Pine Annosus

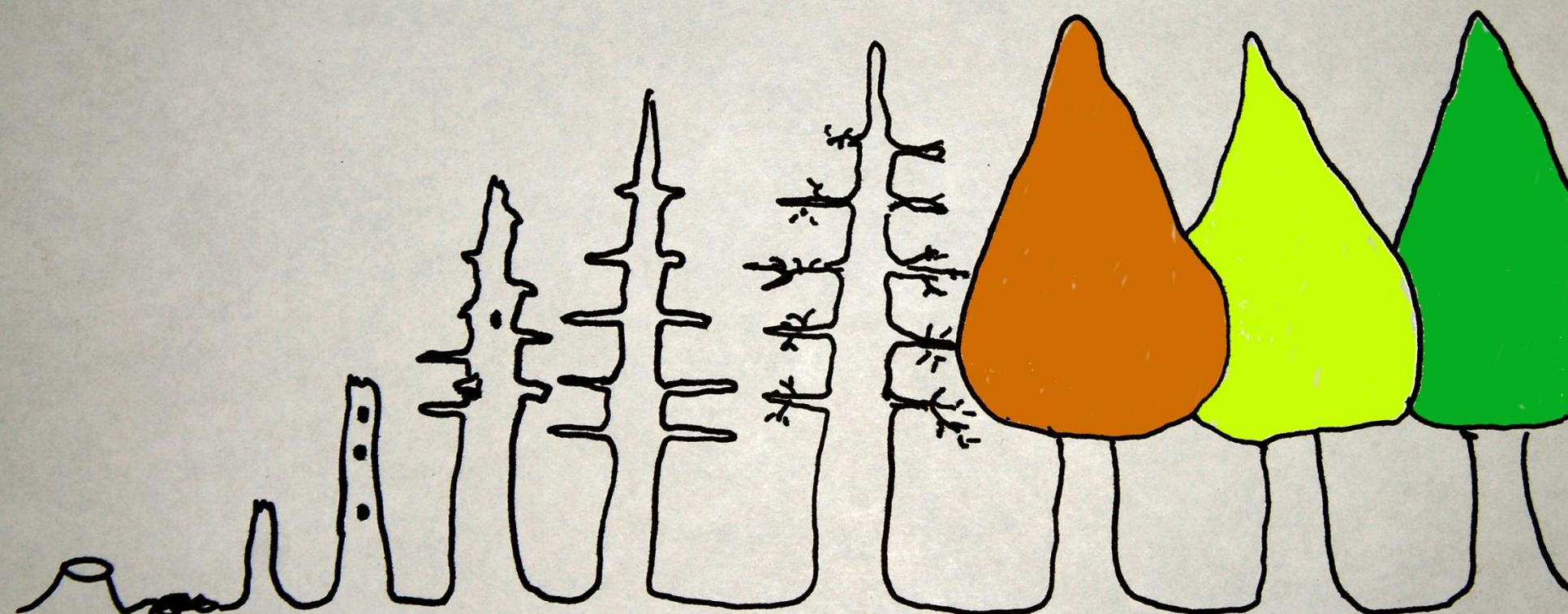
# Annosus Root Disease Reports in California



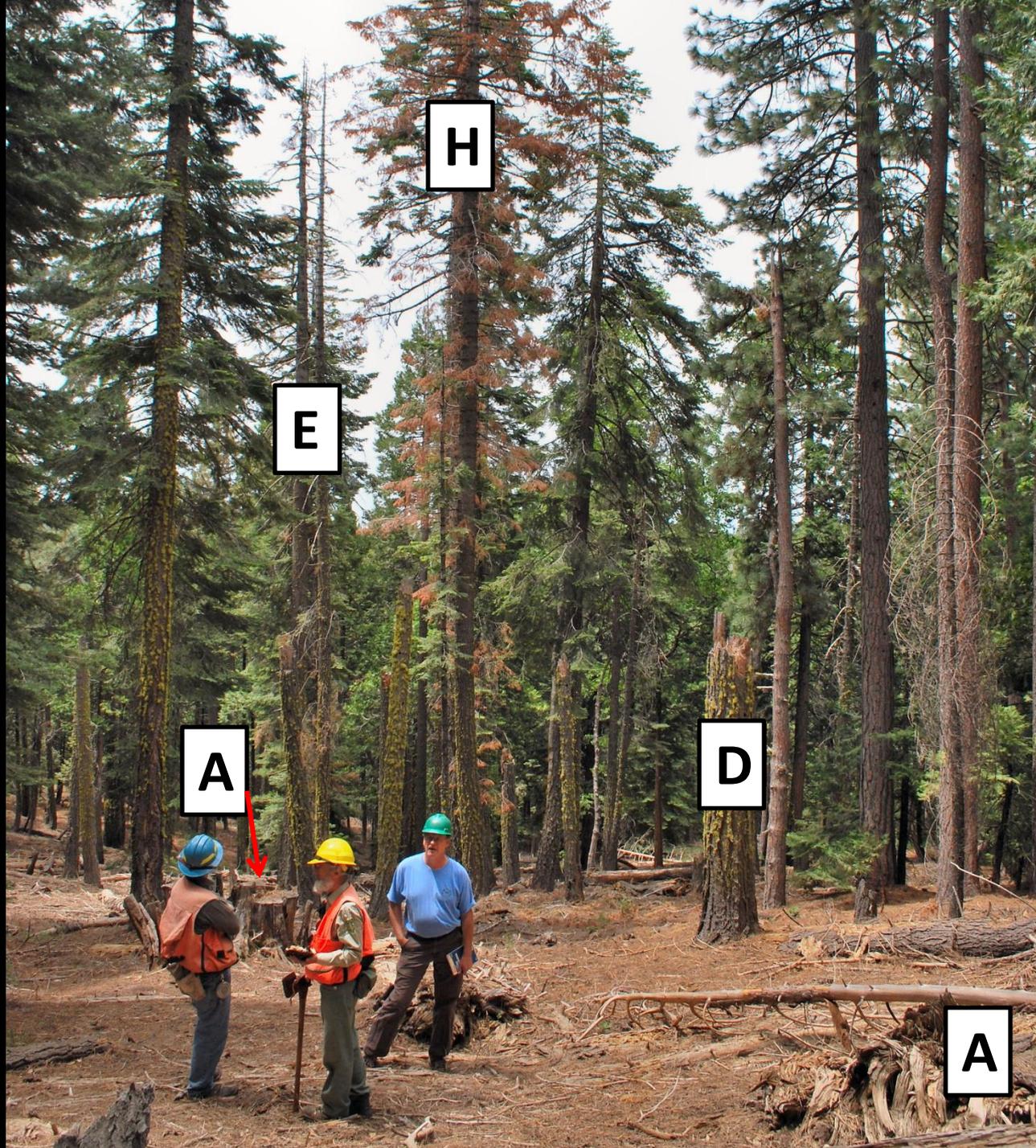








A B C D E F G H I J



H

E

A

D

A



E

E

C

E

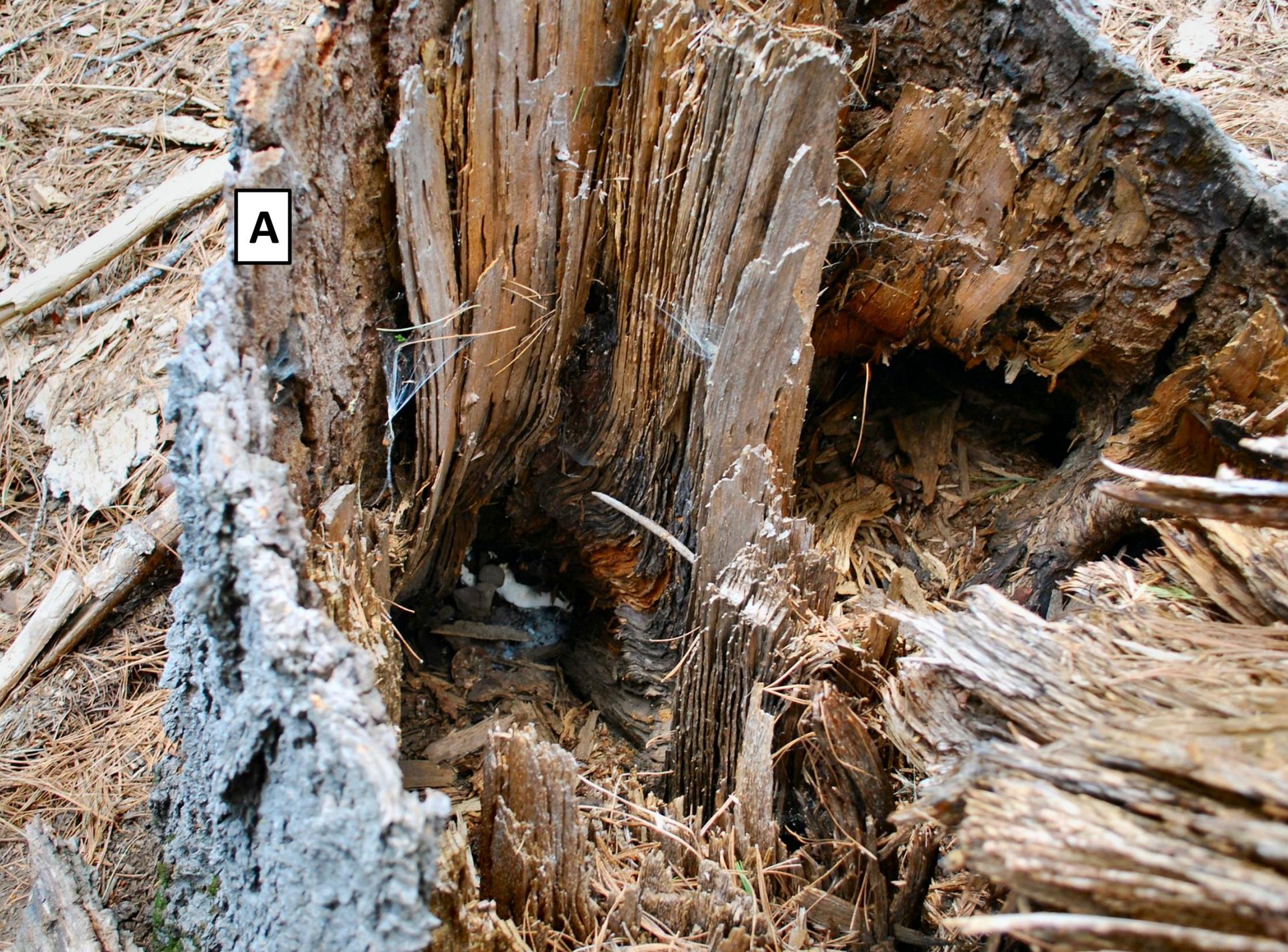
A



**A**

**B**

A









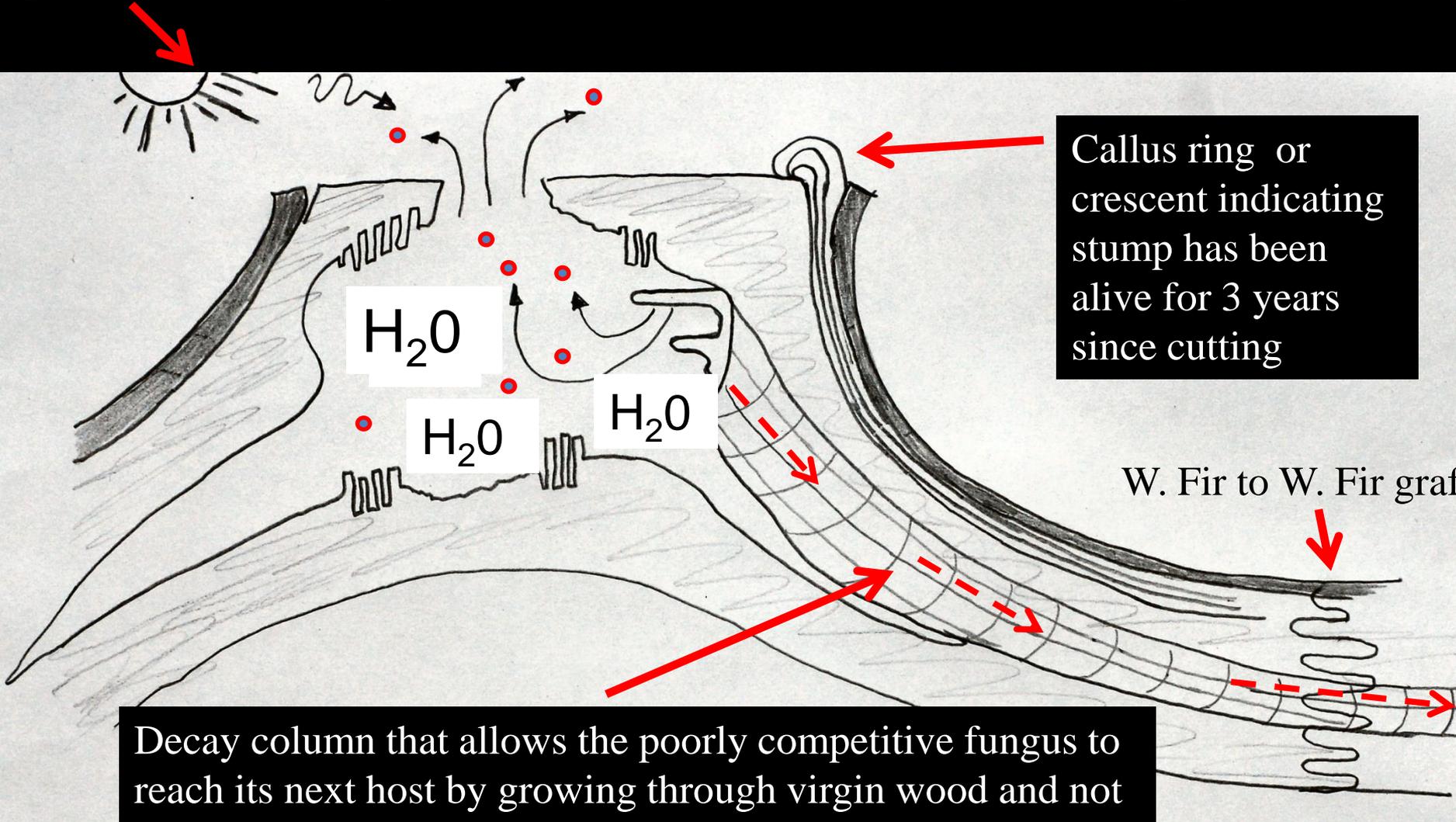








(1) Sun warms the moist air in the decay chamber and the rising warm air carries the spores out, to be transported in the breeze to the next freshly cut stump.

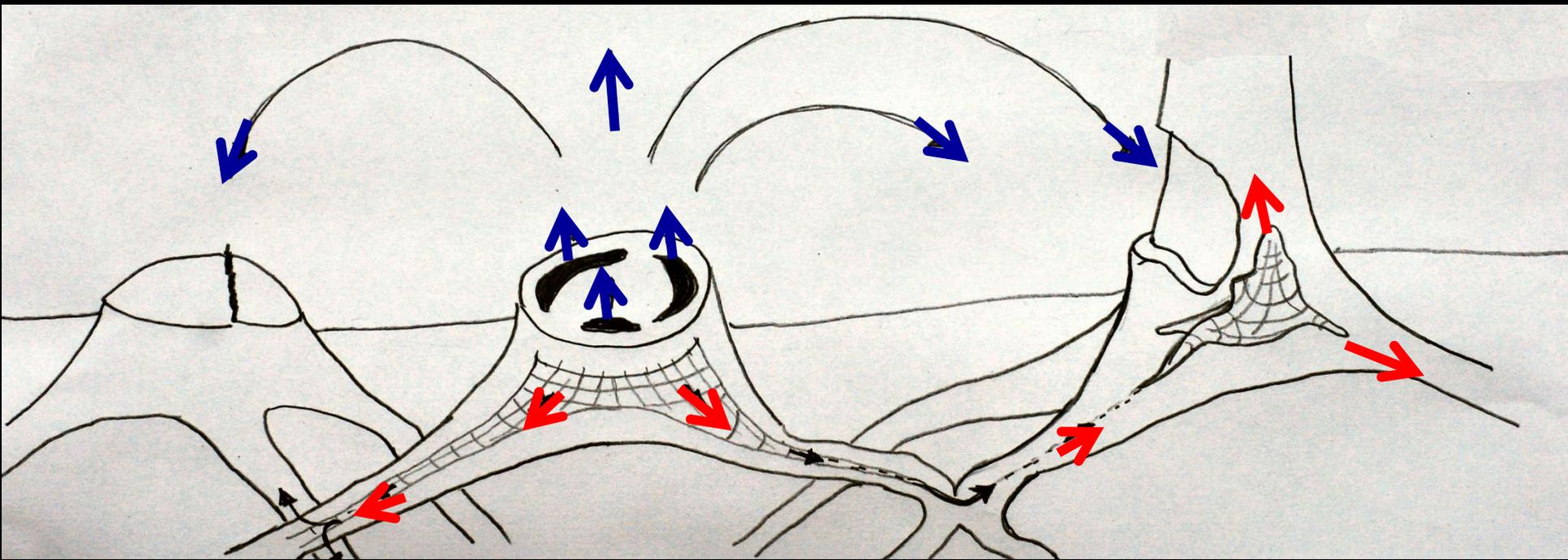


Callus ring or crescent indicating stump has been alive for 3 years since cutting

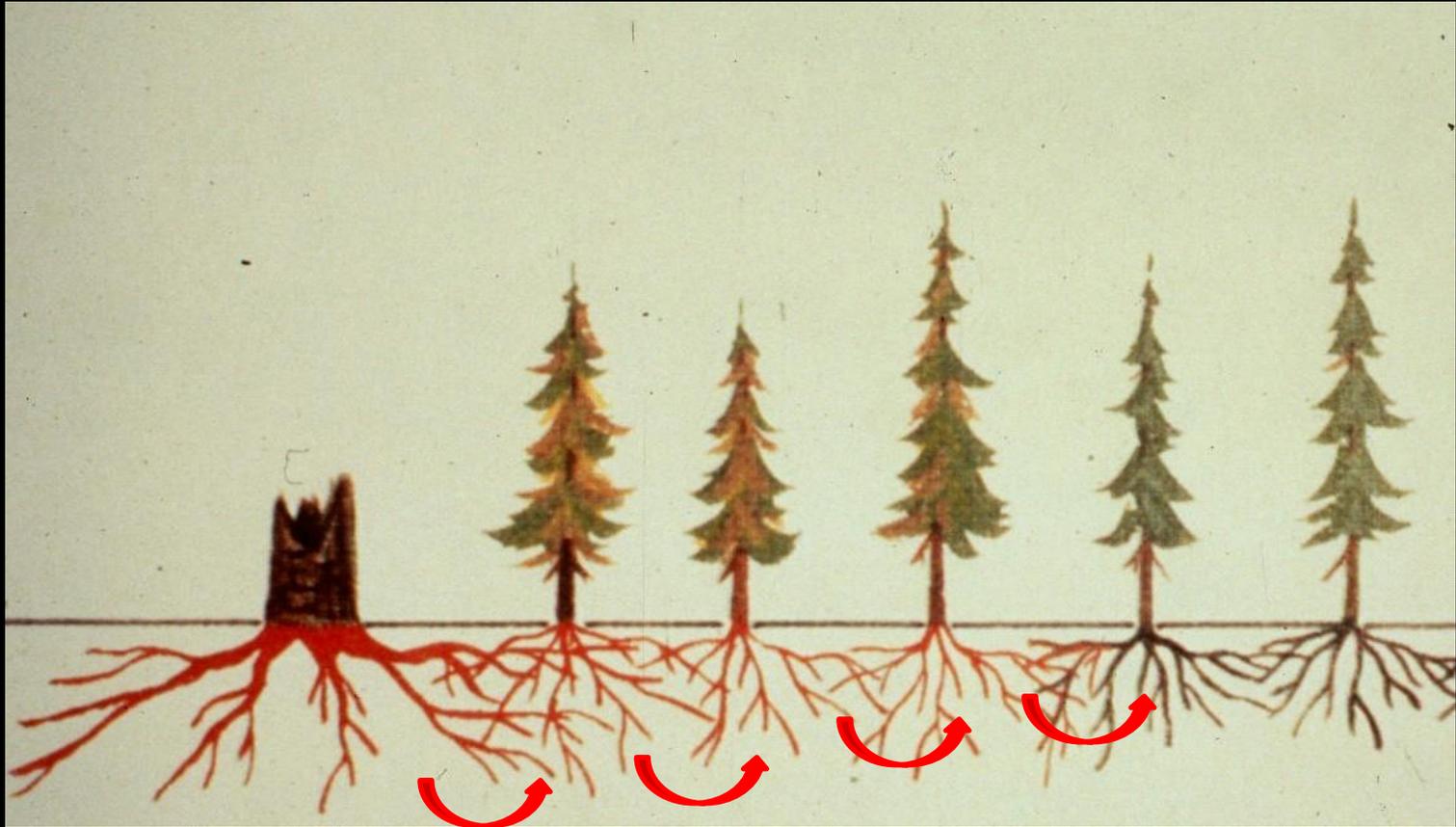
Decay column that allows the poorly competitive fungus to reach its next host by growing through virgin wood and not have to encounter antagonistic organisms.

# Means of spread of this fungus:

- Within pockets by root contacts or grafts
- To new pockets by windblown spores

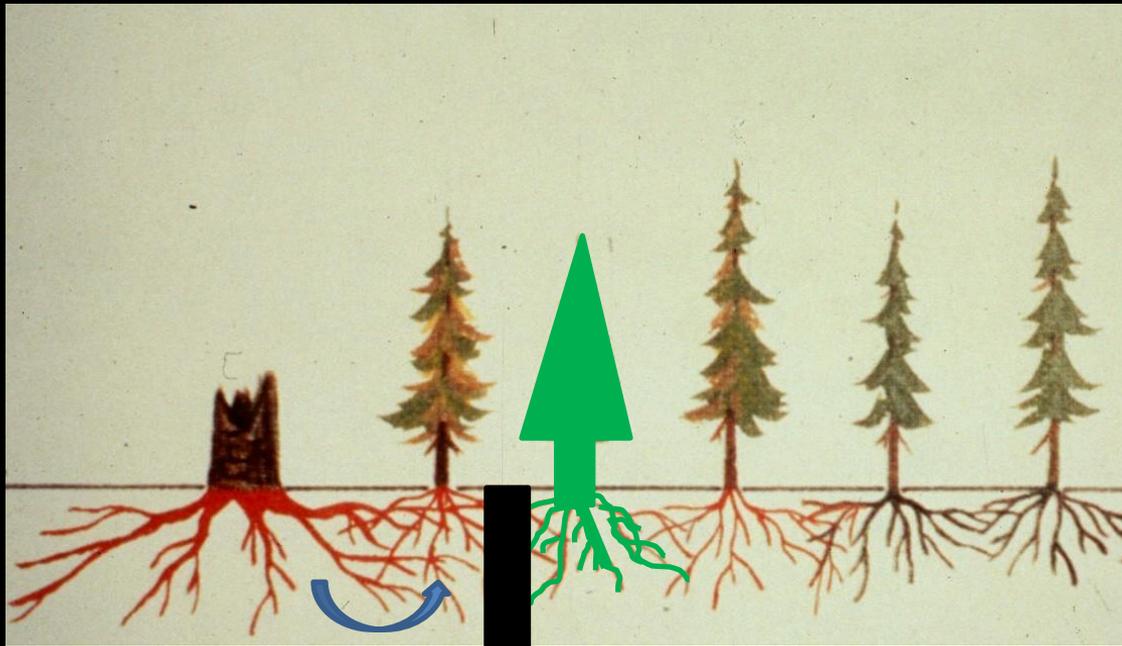


# Root-to-Root Spread



Disease is *beyond* trees with crown symptoms  
Spread 1 – 6 ft / year

# Root-to-Root Spread



Disease is *beyond* trees with crown symptoms



**E**

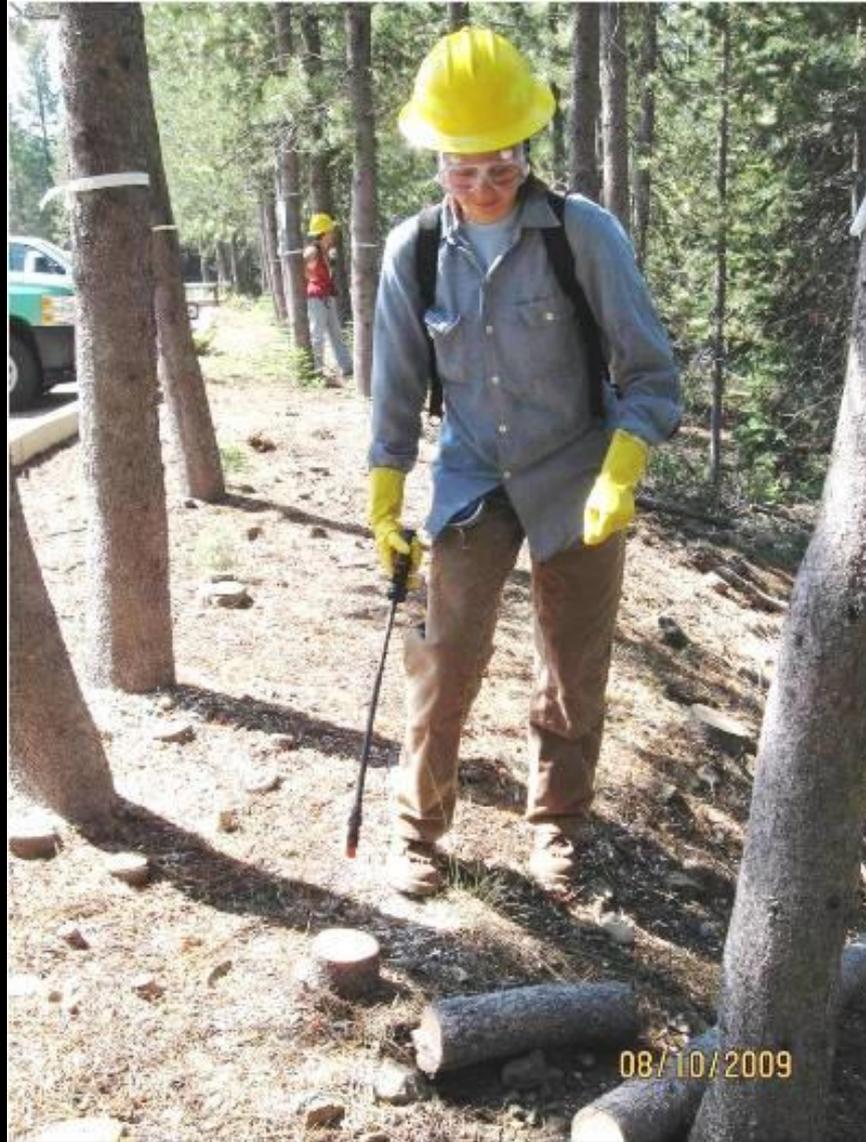
**A**

# Why Heterobasidion root disease is such a problem

- Strong Saprophytic Abilities
  - Colonizes dead and dying stumps out to roots
  - Decays heartwood leaving stringy white rot
  - Other fungi can't compete
  - Occupy root systems for up to 35 yrs!

*Both species can colonize (dead) stumps of the hosts of the other type!*

Cellu-Treat  
application on  
Plumas NF using  
back-pack sprayer



5% a.i. solution

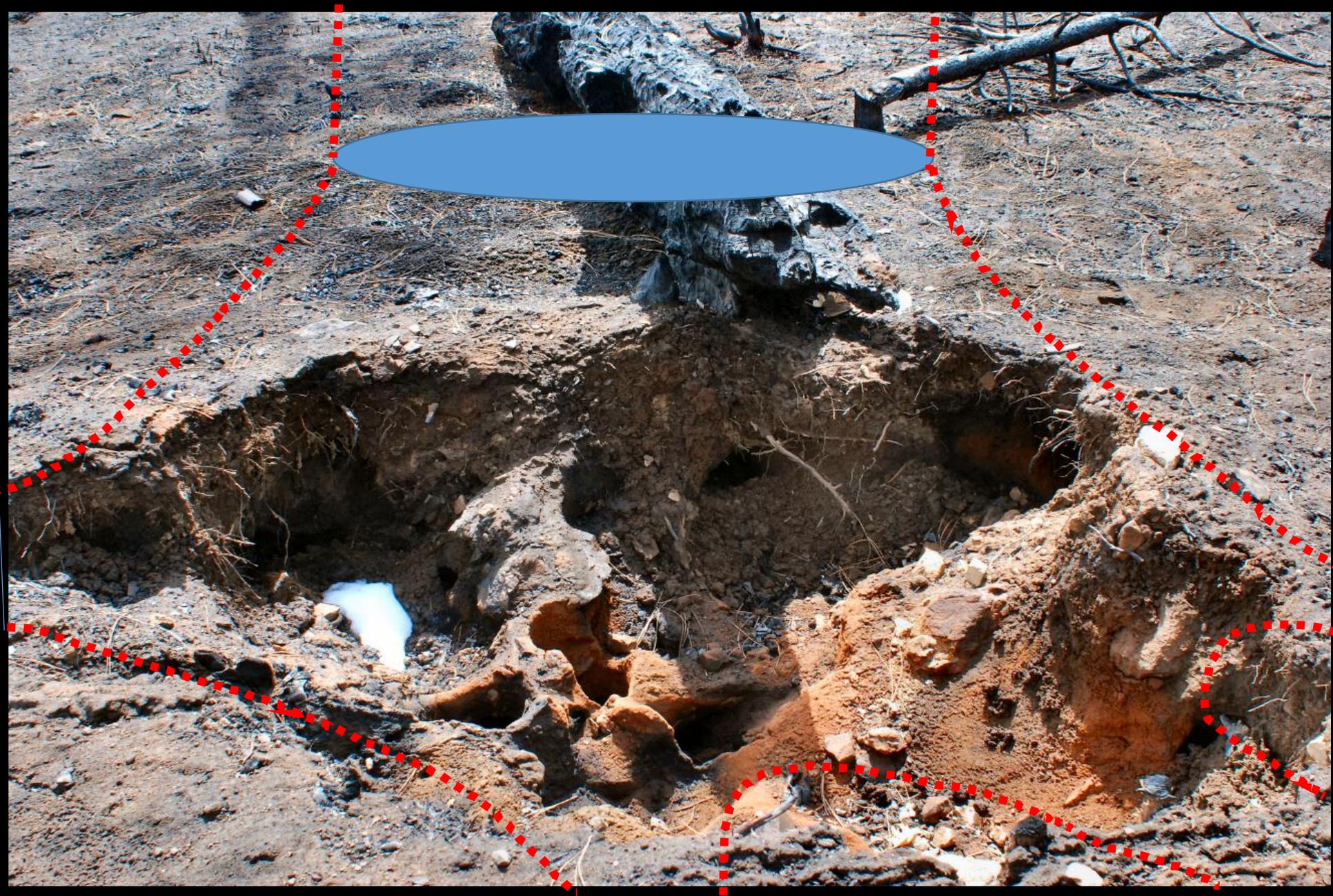
1 lb in 2 gals + dye

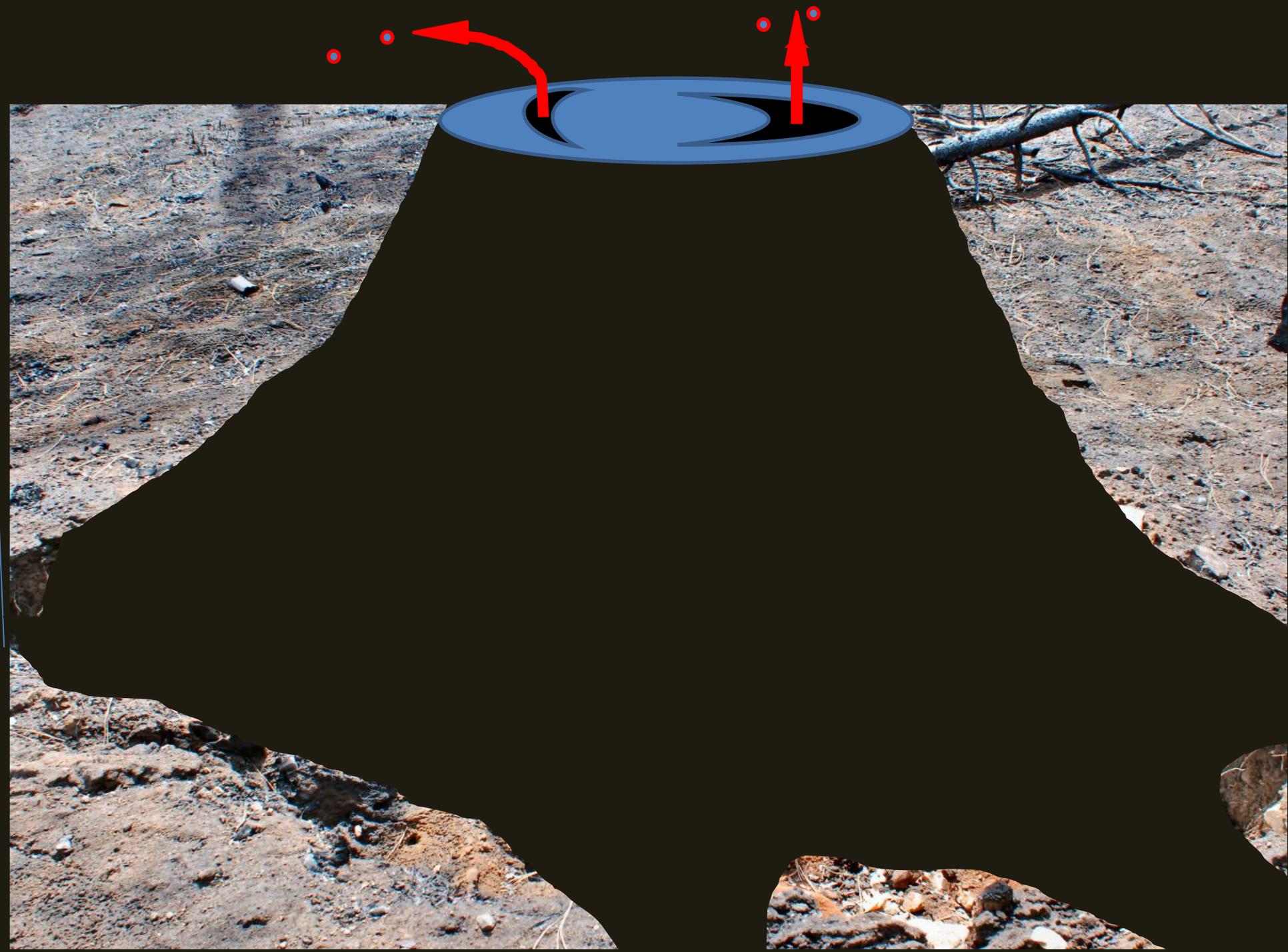
Covers 400 sq ft

= 500 x 12 inch

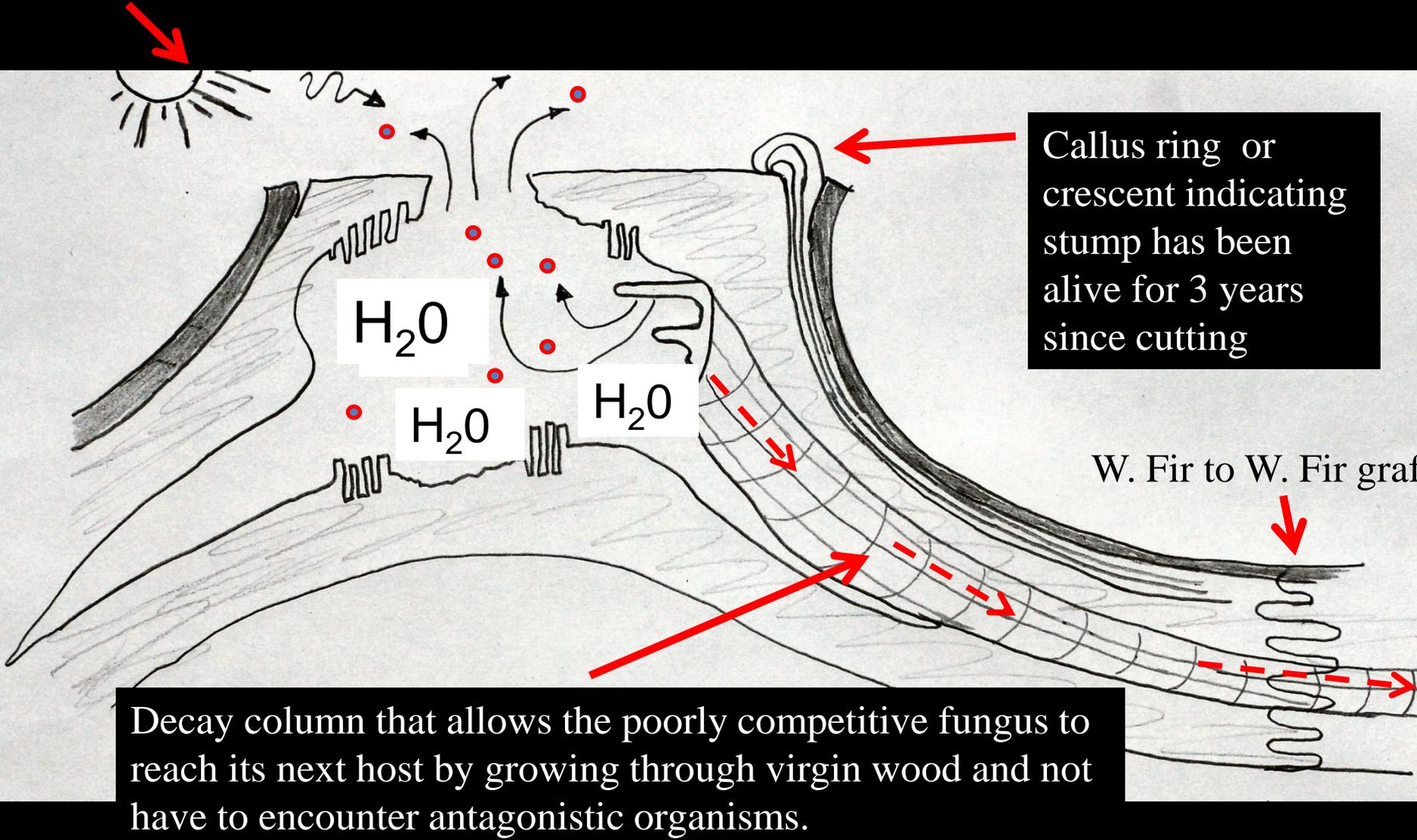
stumps



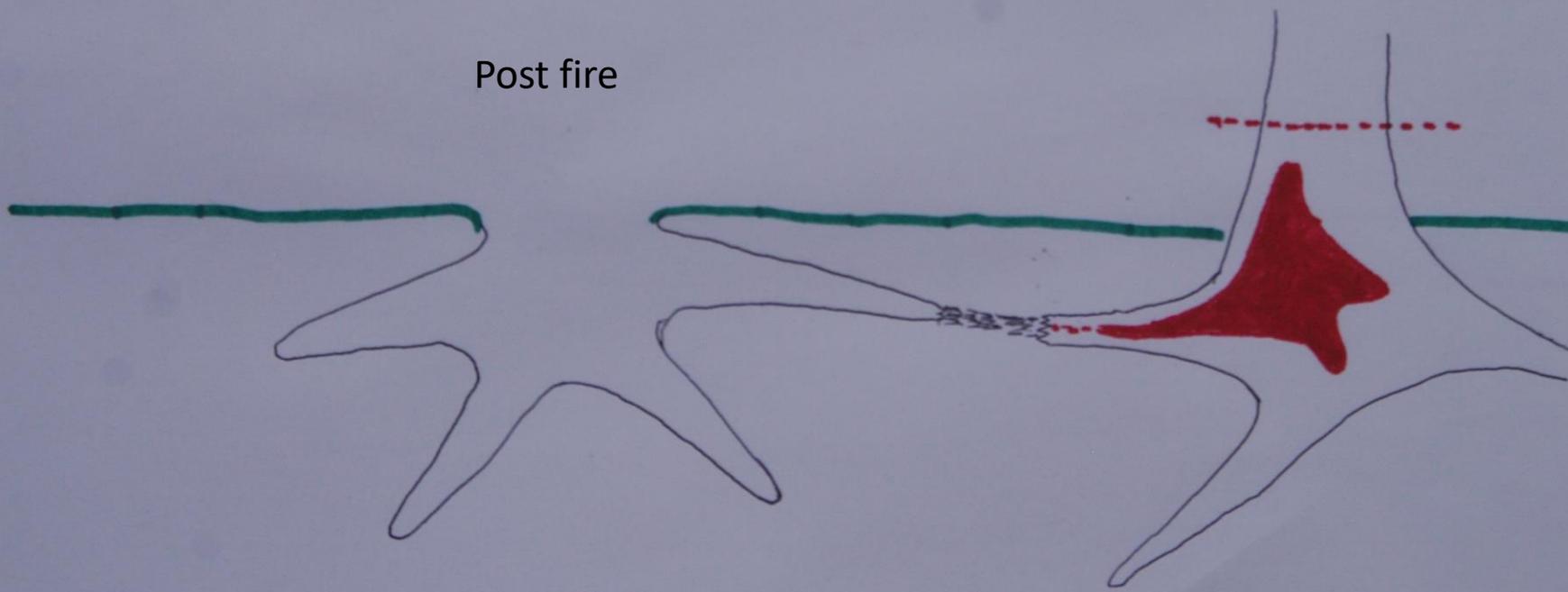
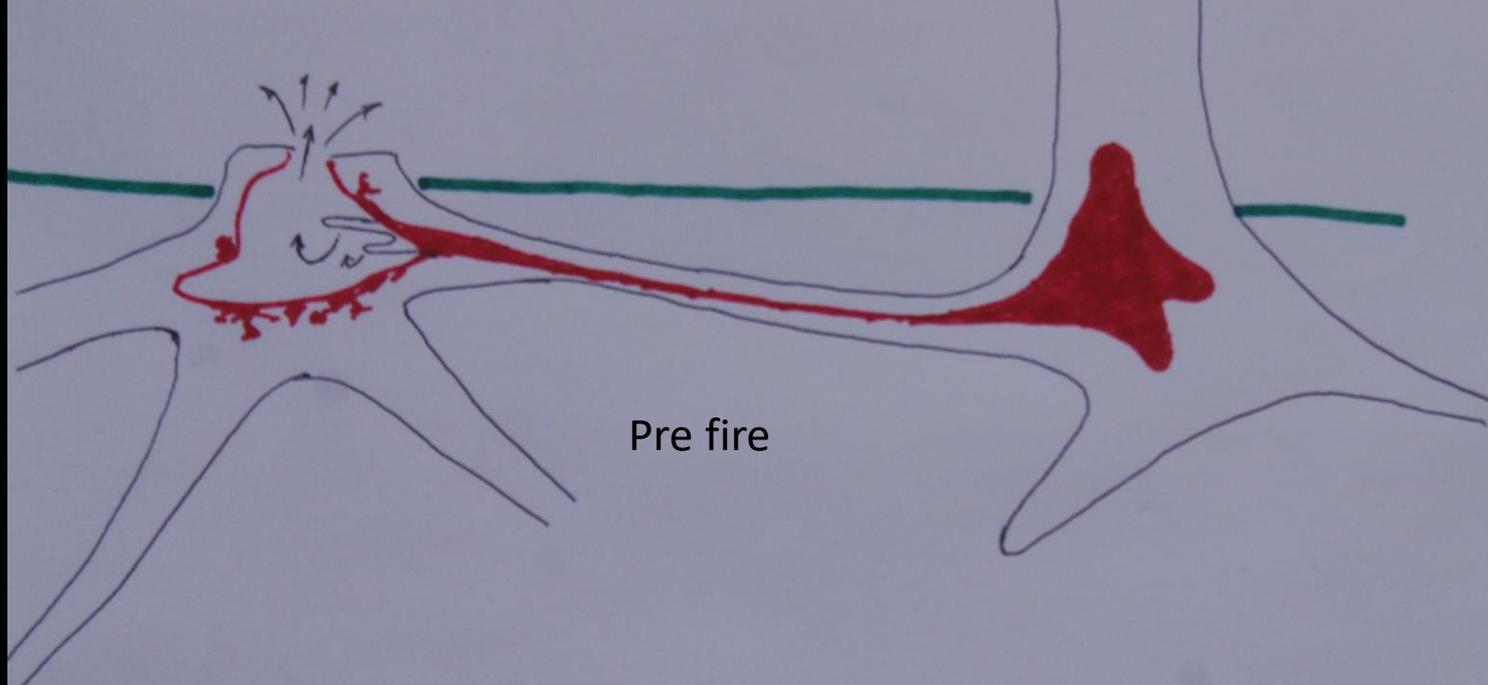


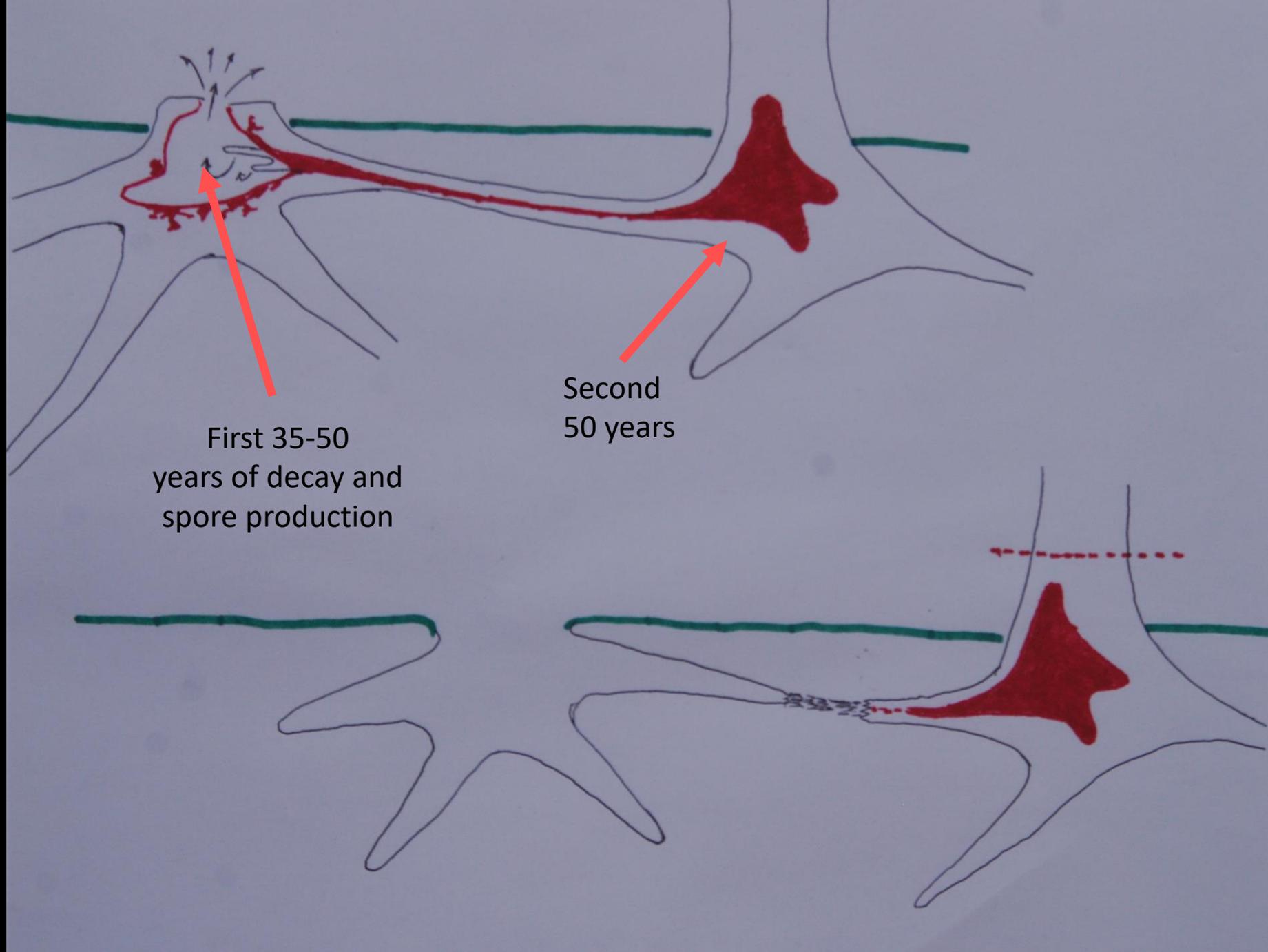


(1) Sun warms the moist air in the decay chamber and the rising warm air carries the spores out, to be transported in the breeze to the next freshly cut stump.



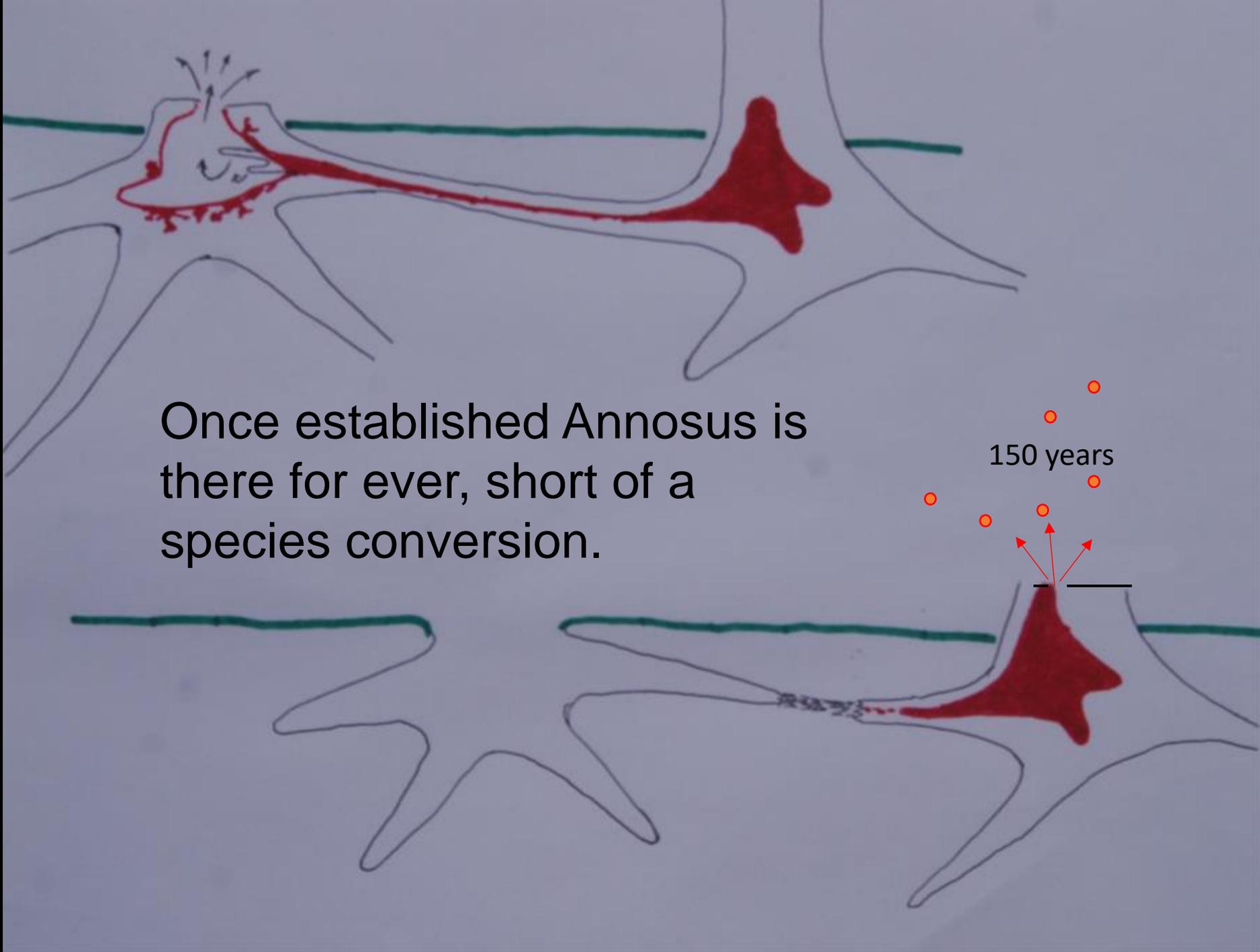






Once established Annosus is there for ever, short of a species conversion.

150 years





Major General Mark W. Clark commanding the 85<sup>th</sup> (Custer) Division of the 5<sup>th</sup> US Army captured the walled Presidential Estate of Castelporziano, Italy in June 1944.

The Custers had trained in MS, LA, & AL They left for Europe from Fort Dix in NJ. And took *H. irregulare* along with them, in their packing materials.

Hybrid of the 2 "P" types  
NA x European



# **Gray-brown Sap Rot**

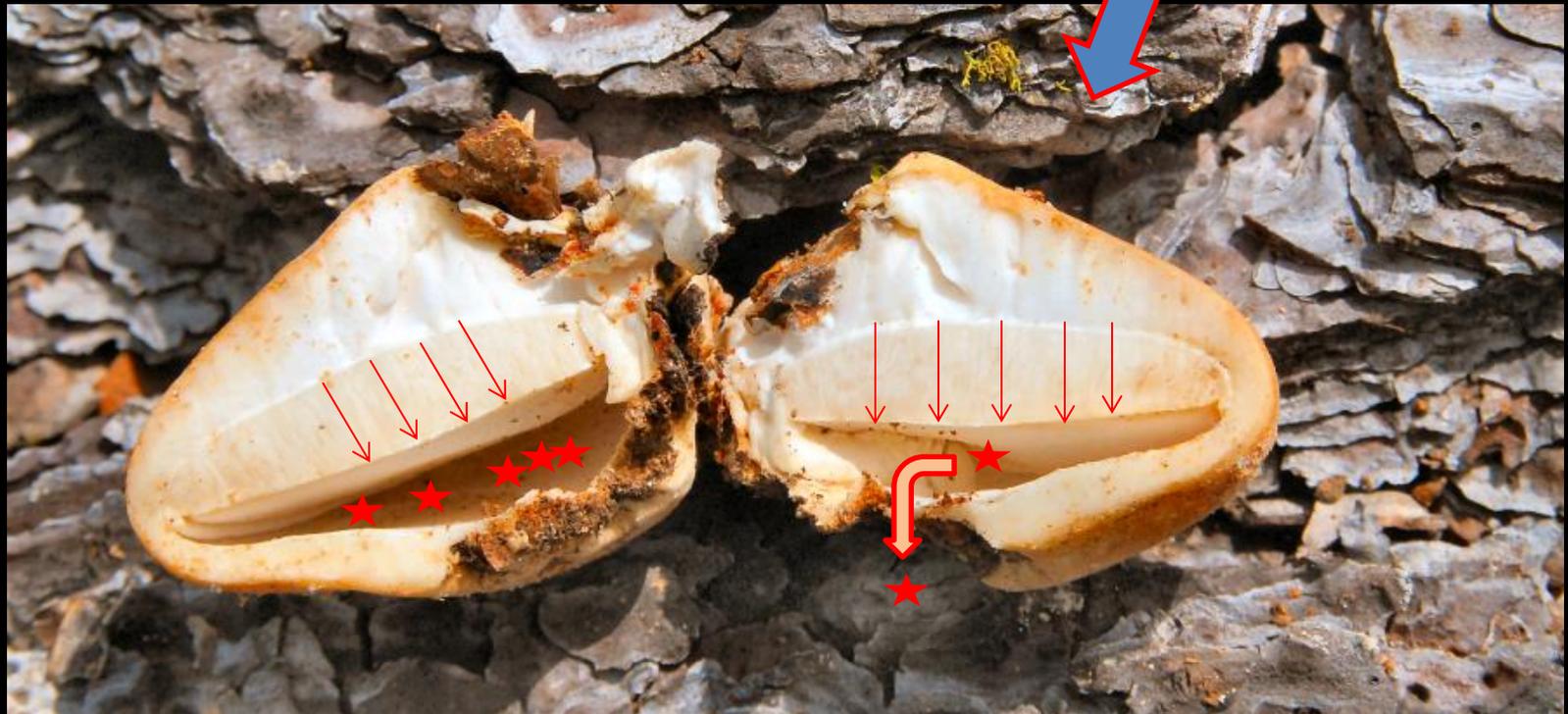
## ***Cryptoporus volvatus***

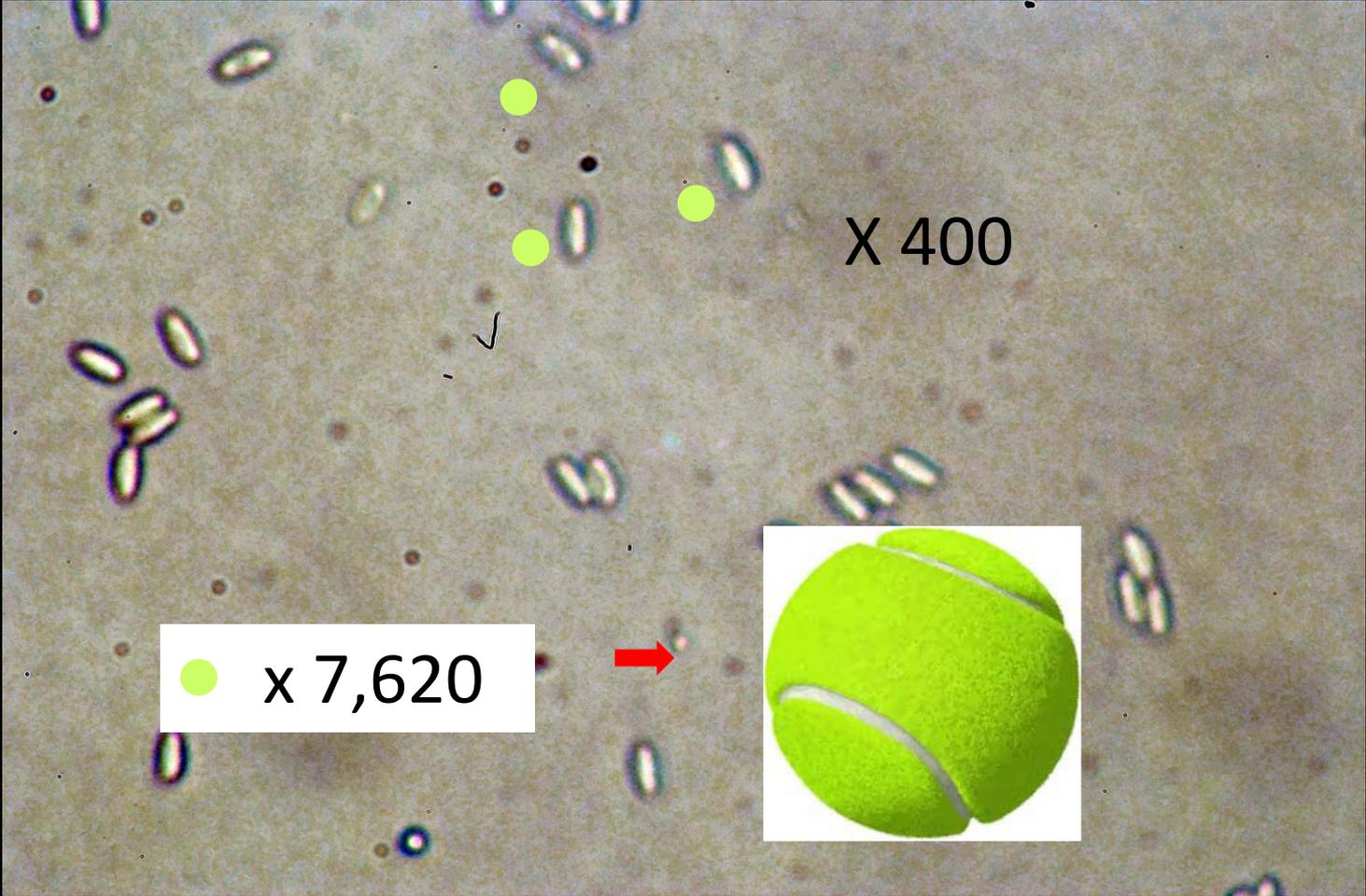
(Crypto = “hidden” + “pores”)

Pouch fungus









X 400

● x 7,620



Magnify  
a 10  $\mu$  spore by  
7,620 x times



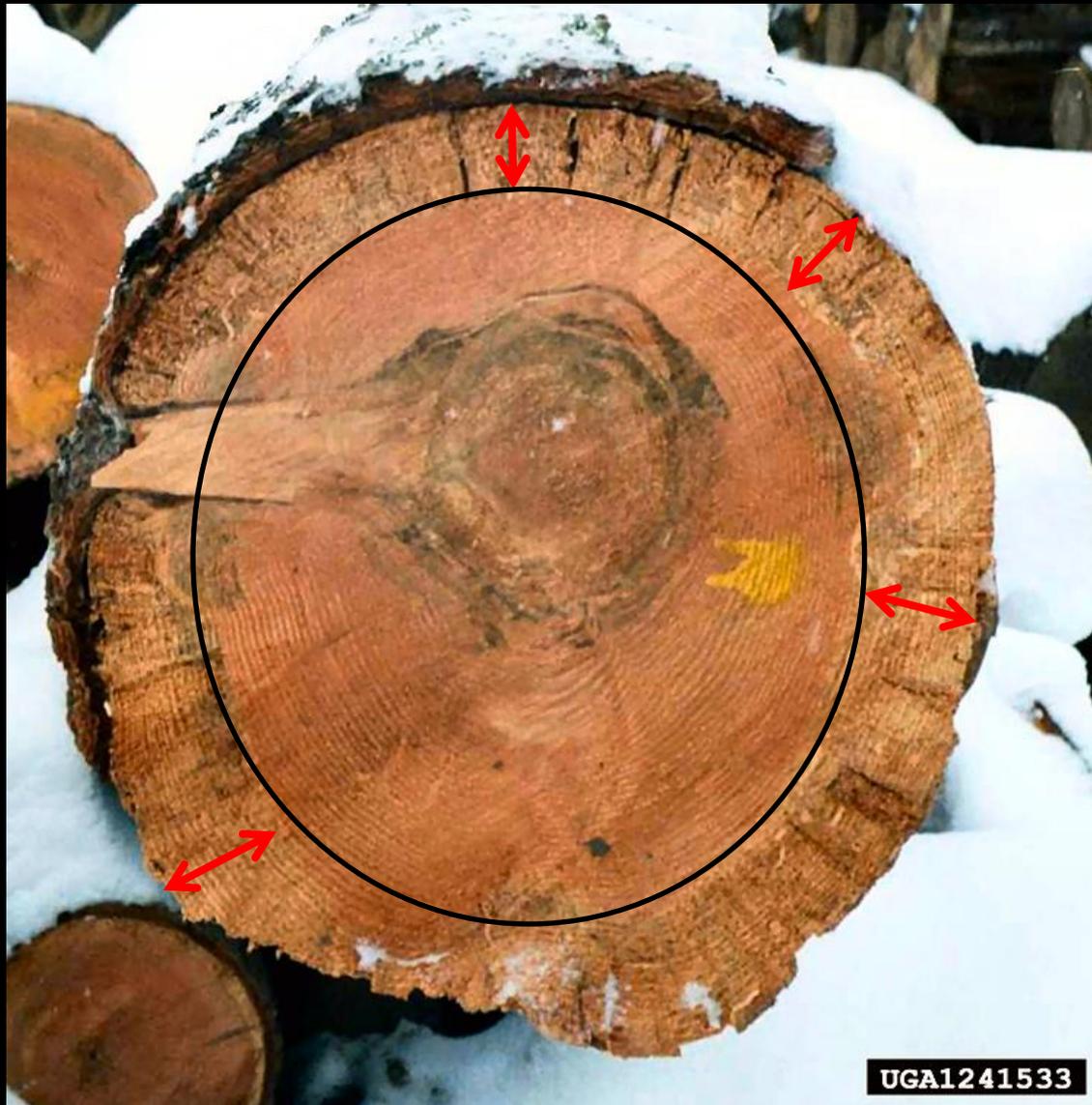
3 inch ball  
now equals



Magnify  
a 2 mm beetle exit  
hole 7,620 times



50 foot  
culvert



UGA1241533

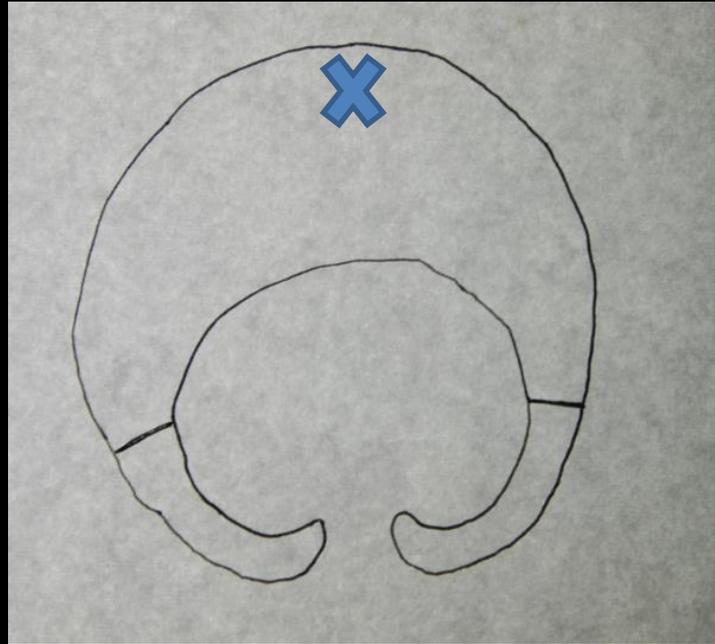
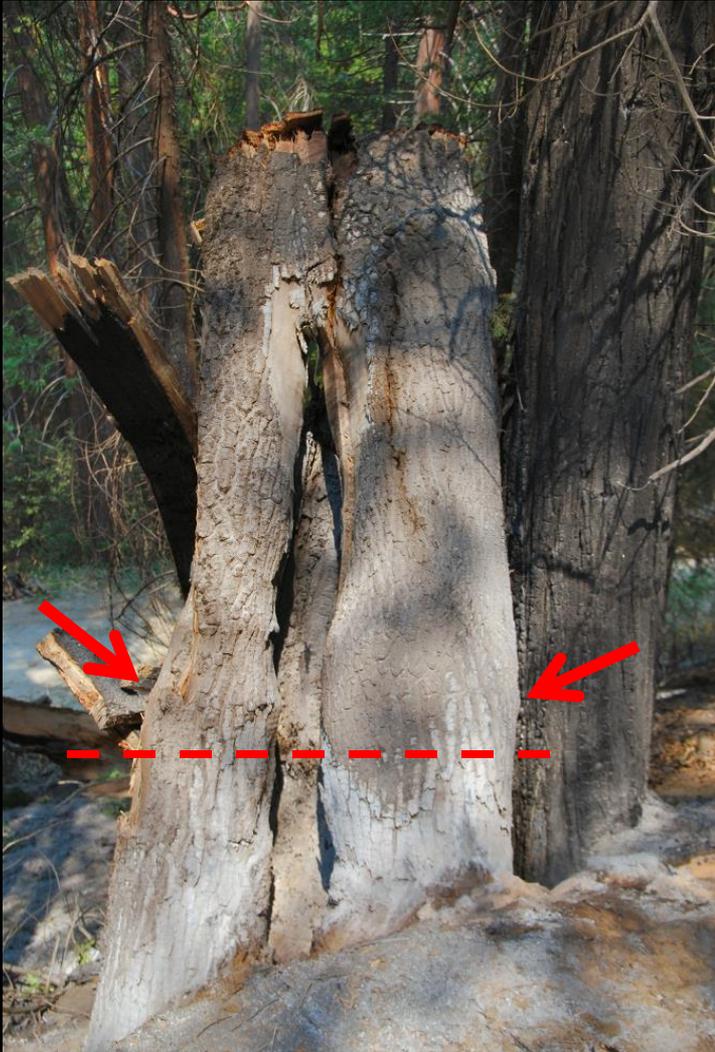




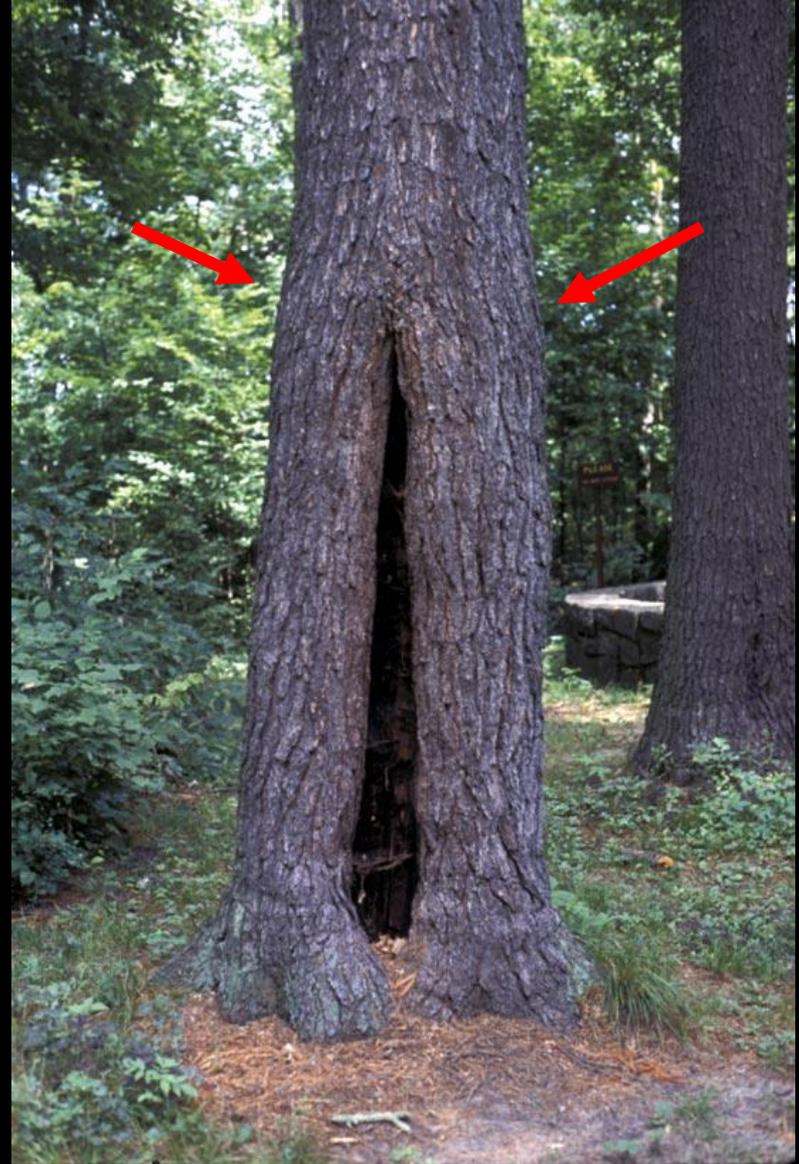
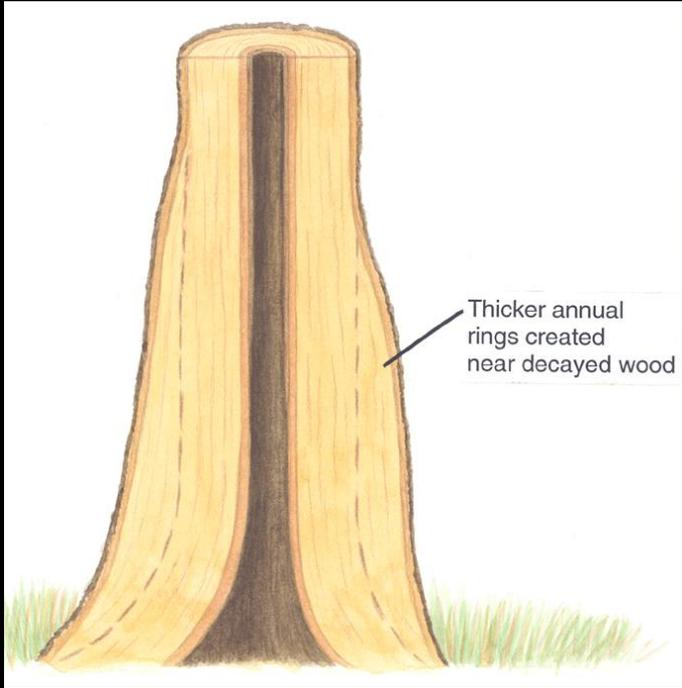
Engine # 4475 Power Fire, STF, 2013

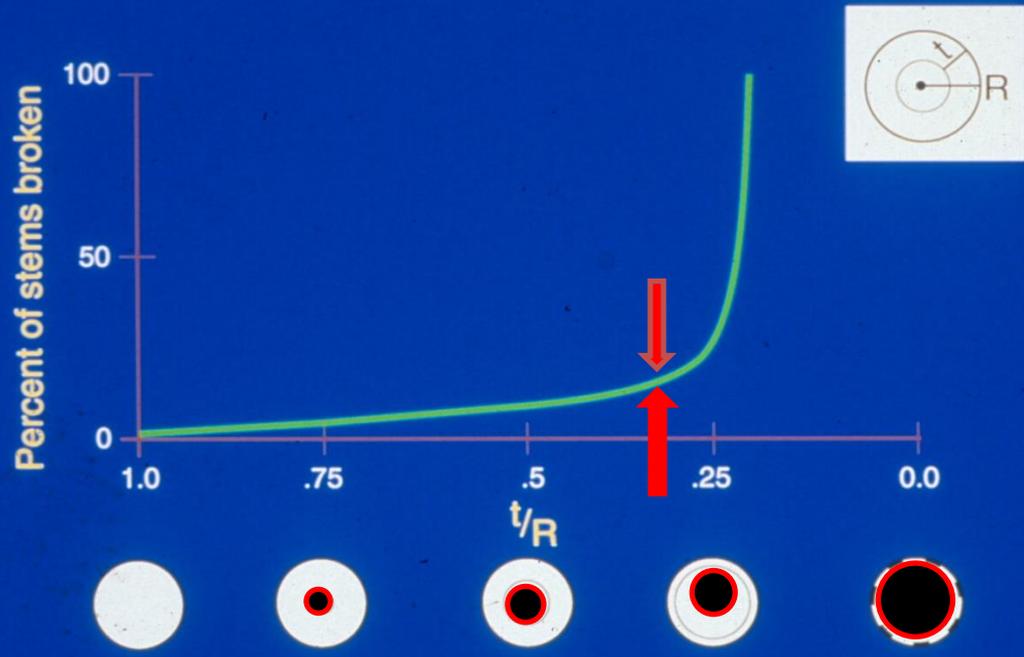






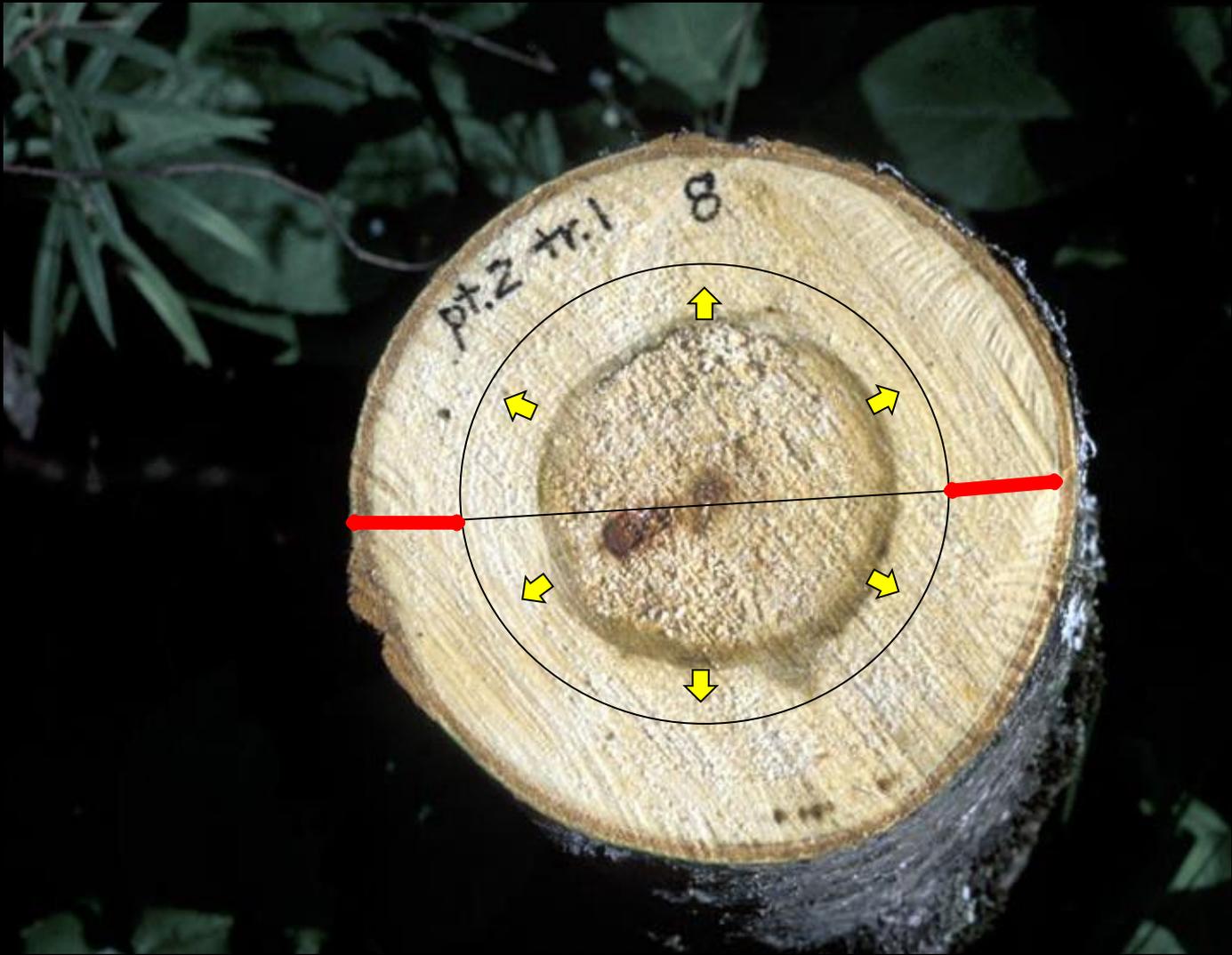
Shell thickness can be affected by bulges/ swellings that sometimes surround columns of decay.





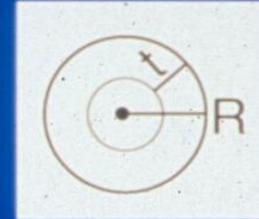
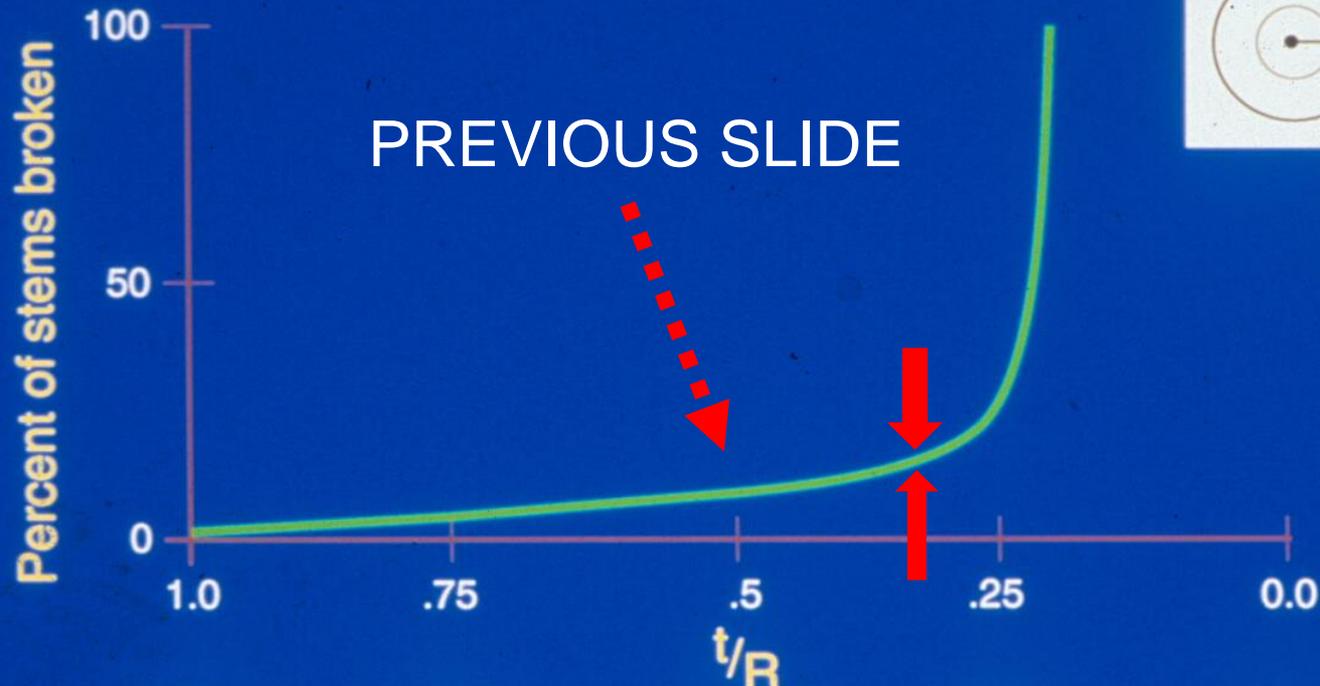
Shell thickness  $> 1/3$  of radius

Mattheck, 1990



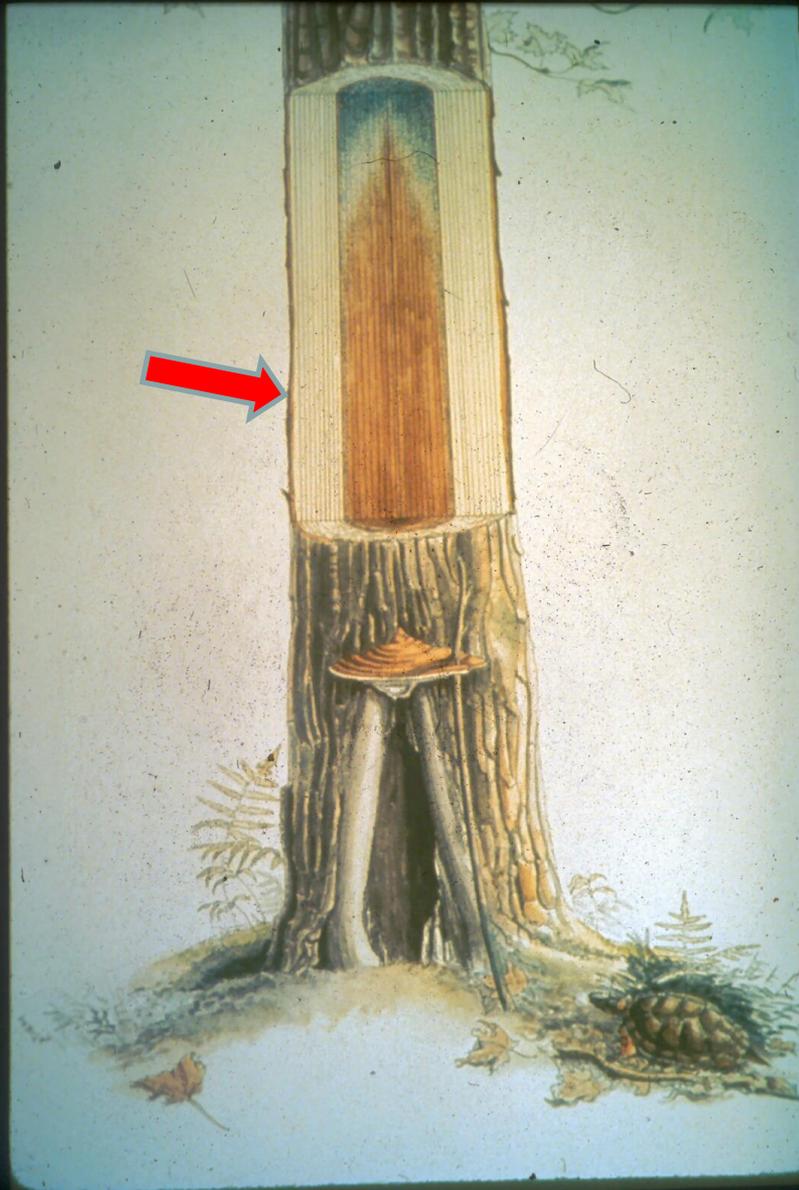
pt. 2 tr. 1 8





Shell thickness > 1/3 of radius

$$T = 0.5$$



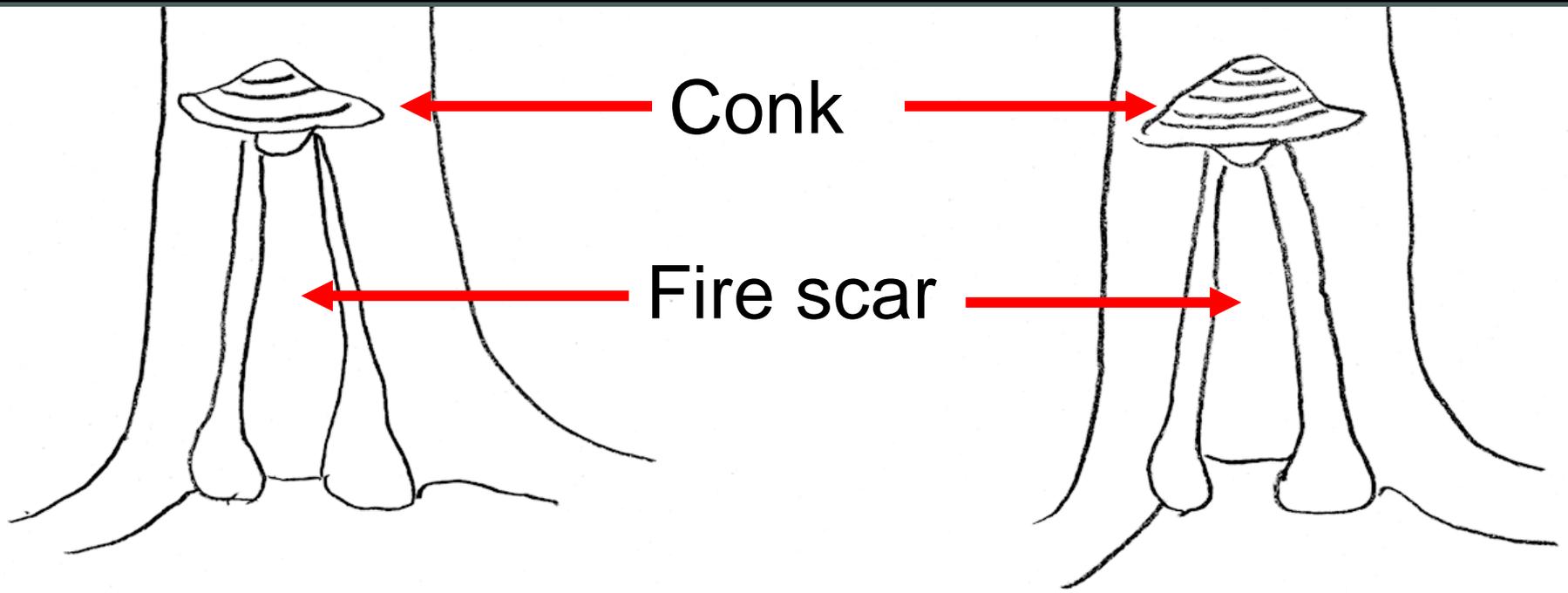
Left of the  
critical point

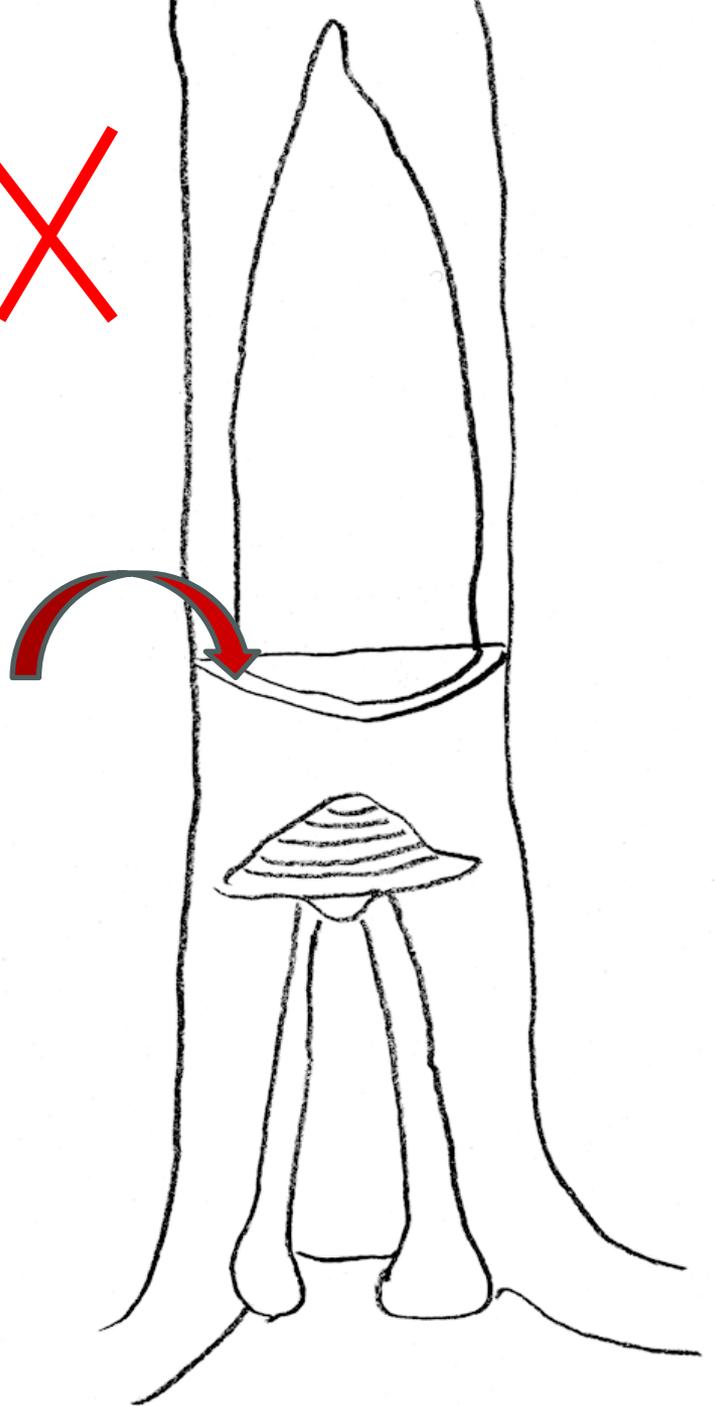
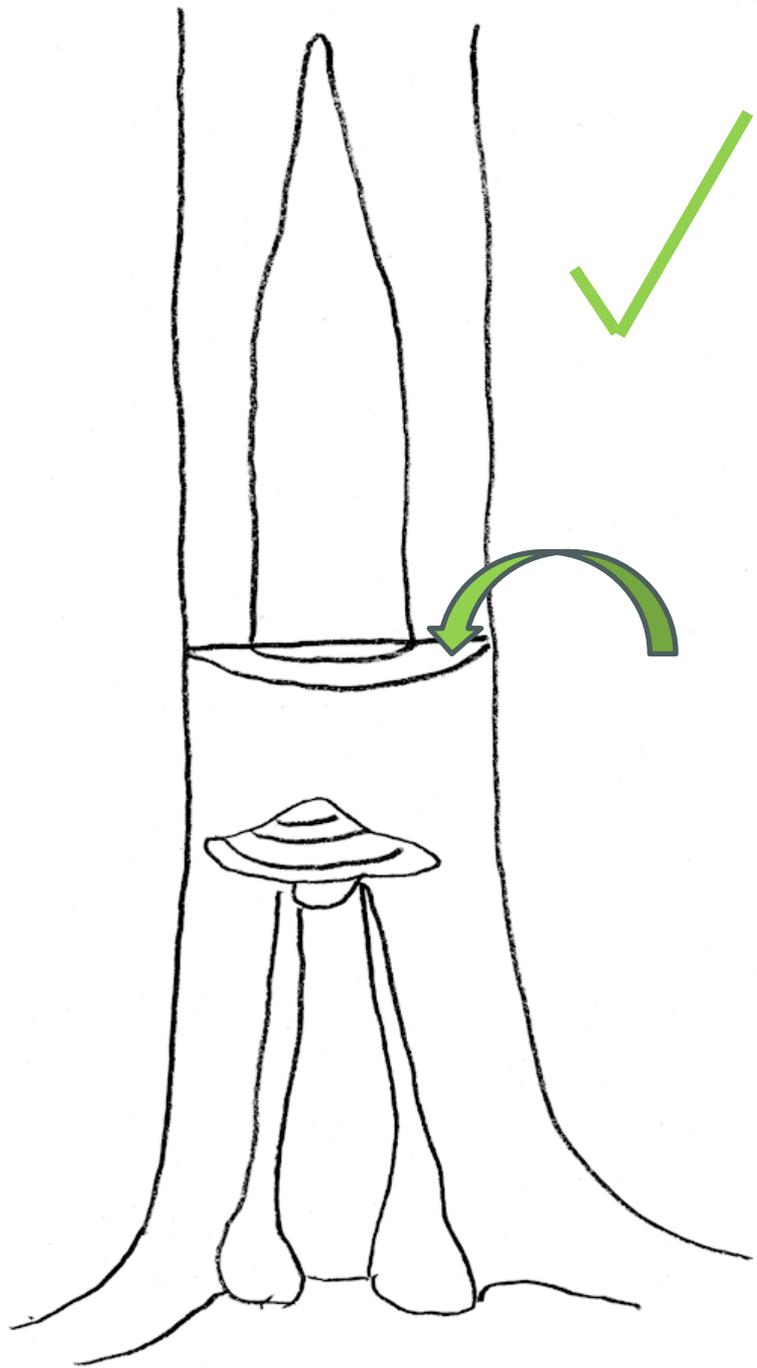
Shell thickness  
OK

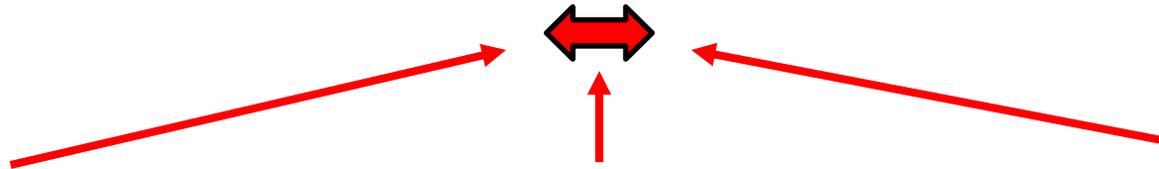
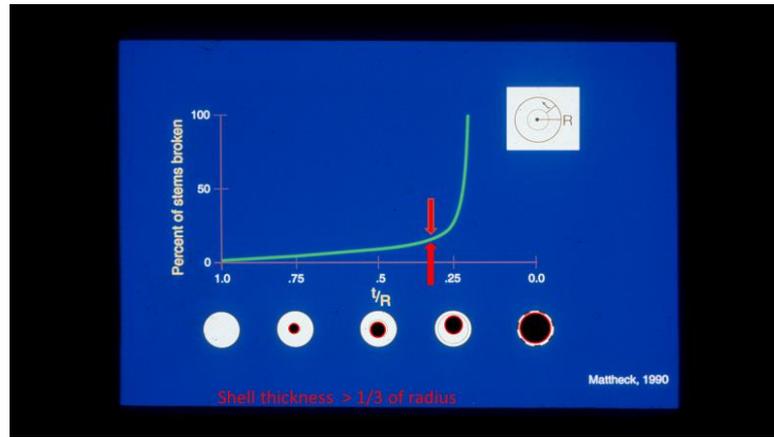


Year 4

Year 7



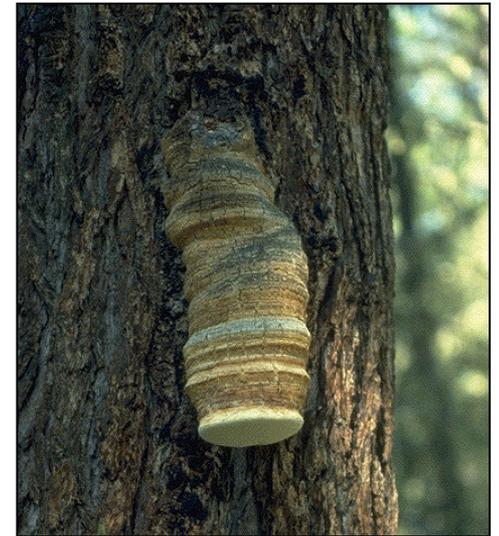




$D = 3$



$D = 3$



$D = 3$

*Fomitopsis  
officinalis*



**Common Name: Brown Trunk Rot,  
“Quinine Fungus**

**Most commonly a trunk rot on old-  
growth conifers. Stem breakage is  
common.**

**Decay is a yellow-brown to  
reddish-brown cubical rot**

**Hosts: Douglas-fir, pines, western  
larch, spruce, hemlock;  
occasionally true fir**

**Enters through wounds, branch  
stubs, broken tops and  
occasionally through fire scars**

## *Phaeolus schweinitzii*



**Common Name:**

**Red-Brown Butt Rot  
(Velvet Top Fungus)**

**Hosts:**

**Douglas-fir, Pines, True Firs,  
Larch, Spruce, Incense-cedar,  
Western Red Cedar, Hemlock**

**Causes a major root and butt decay of older trees  
Decay is a brown cubical rot  
Enters through root wounds and fire scars**

**“Cowpie Fungus”**









Brown Cubical Butt Rot caused by *Phaeolus schweinitzii*



# Paint Fungus

*Echinodontium tinctorium*

Rust red  
stringy rot

True firs and  
Hemlocks







# Paint fungus conks indicate extensive decay



# Red Ring Rot caused by *Phellinus pini*



Most conifers

Common on Douglas-fir

**aka *Porodaedalea pini***



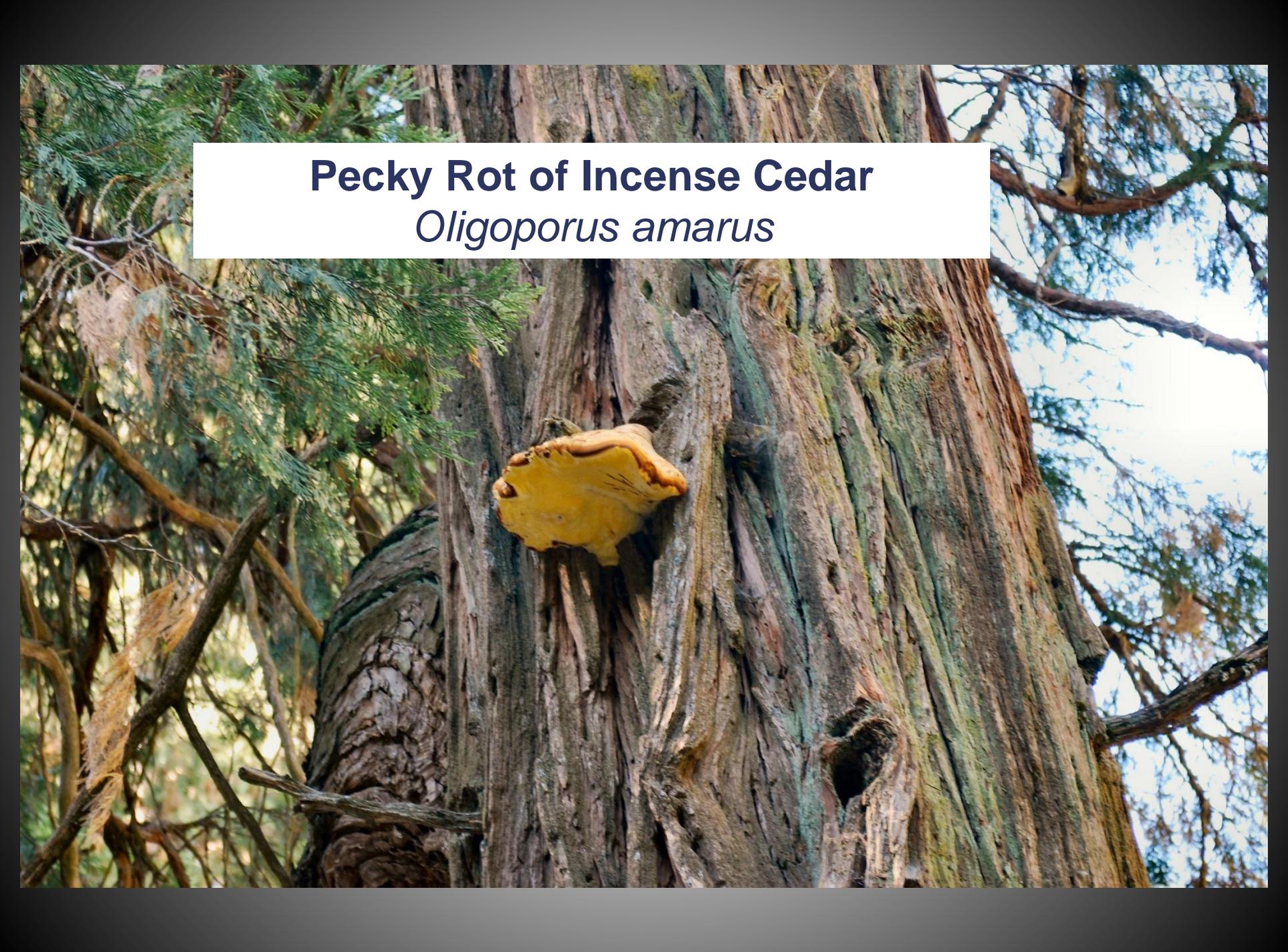


*aka Porodaedalea pini*



The red ring rot fungus causes a  
white pocket rot





**Pecky Rot of Incense Cedar**  
*Oligoporus amarus*



Pecky rot  
a brown pocket rot



# Sulphur fungus



*Laetiporus sulphureus*

Brown Cubical rot

WR



BR





*What do all these have in common ?*

SOD

GSOB

EAB

ALB

GM

PSHB

Pitch Canker

Foamy Bark Disease

Thousand Cankers Disease

What do all these have in common ?

SOD

GSOB

FAB

SHB

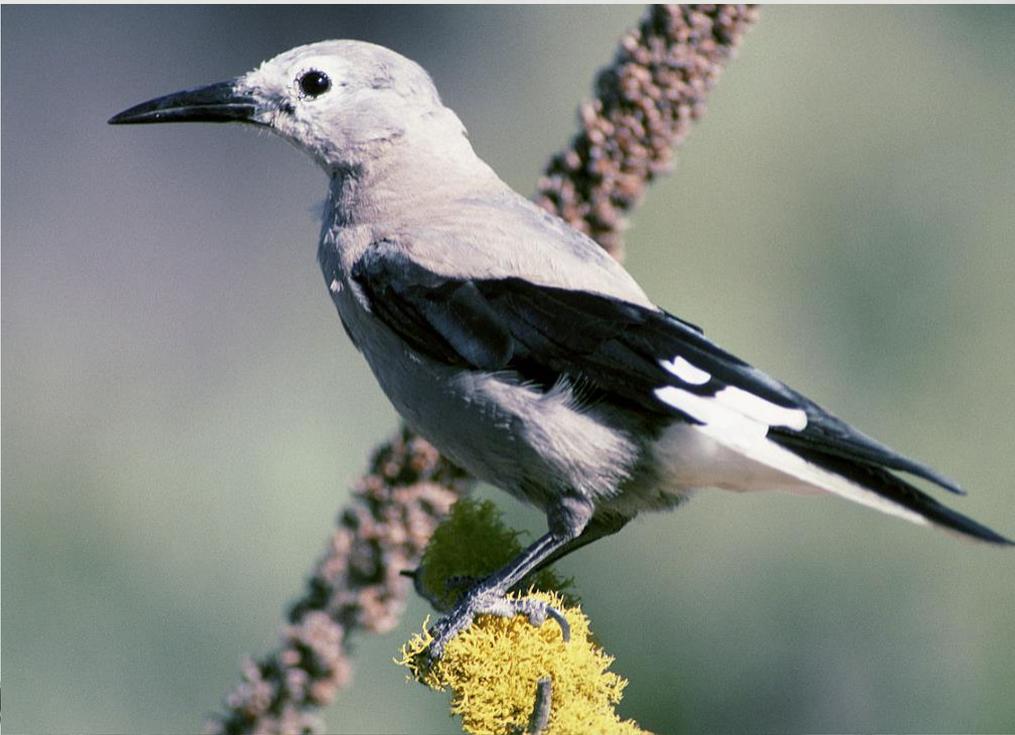
Pitch Canker

Foamy Bark Disease

Thousand Cankers Disease

*Can be Moved in firewood*

# Clark's Nutcracker









Height 23 inches

Span 21 inches

Number of stems in cluster 2

Largest diameter 0.79 in.

0.4 inches  
height / year

135 years

Notice since the overstory began to die  
the  
2012 growth = the previous 3 combined.

2009-2011

2012

10

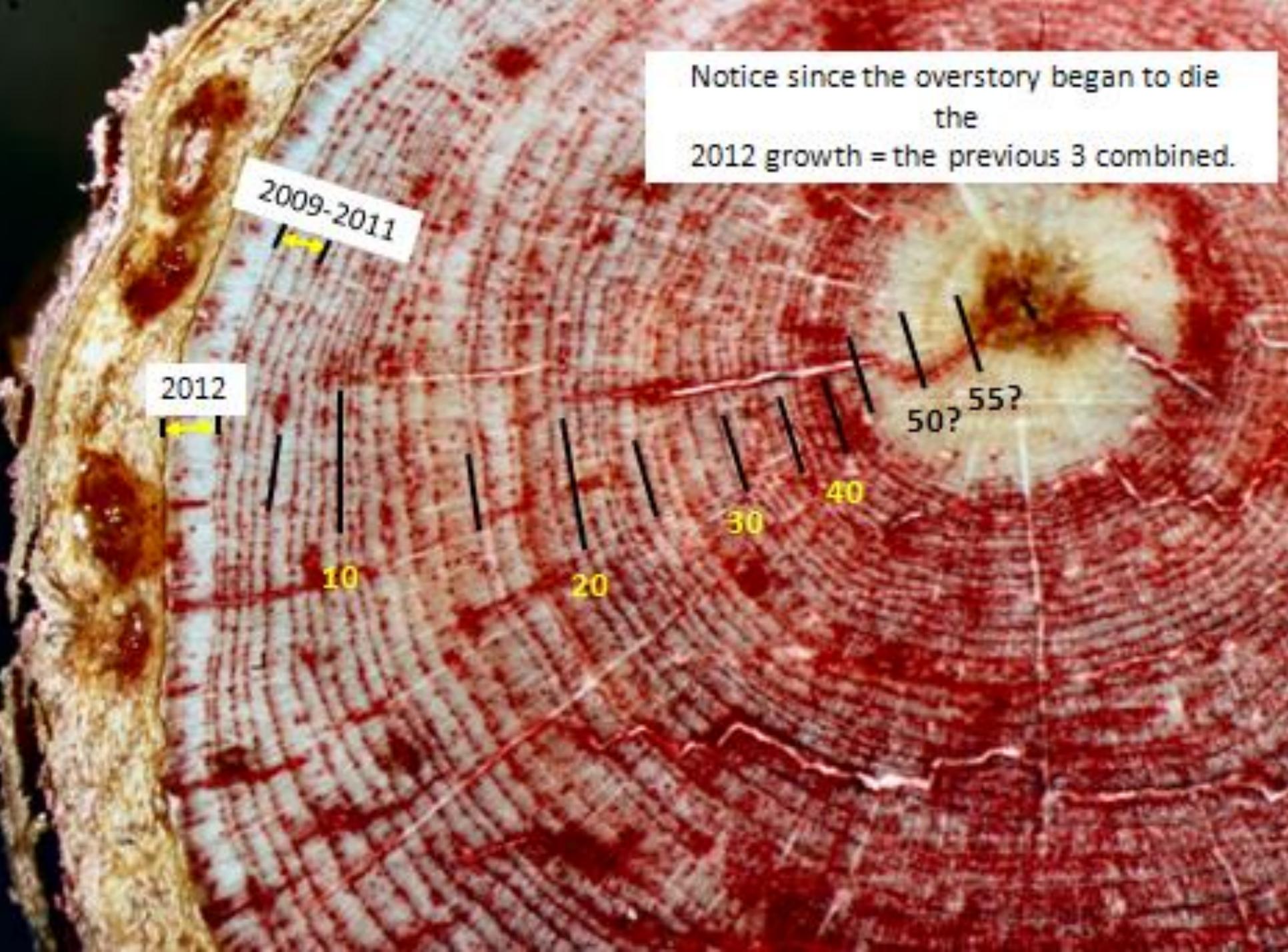
20

30

40

50?

55?



Along came WPBR & eventually the ESA  
Well, the rust has been here since 1900  
and in WBP since 1926.

## **White Pine Blister Rust.**

We are moving towards a rust resistance breeding  
program for WBP

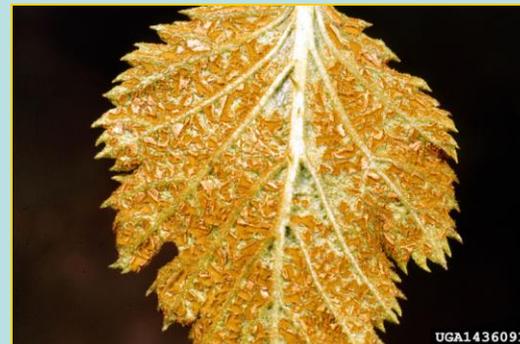
# Characteristics of Rust Diseases

- Rust fungi grow *only* in living plant tissues
- Abundant, colored spores
- Complex, multi-year life cycle
- Can diagnose western rust diseases on conifers easily by
  - Host species
  - Spore stage on host
  - Shape of infections

Not Domesticated,  
or Co-evolved



Coleosporium  
Pine needle rust



UGA1436091

# Types of Rust Life Cycles

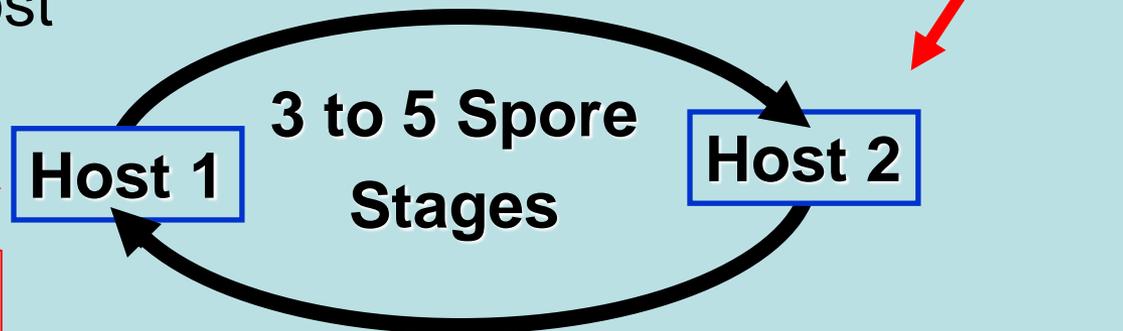
- Single-host

e.g. Western gall rust



- Alternate-host

White pine blister rust  
Pinyon Blister rust  
I.C. Broom rust

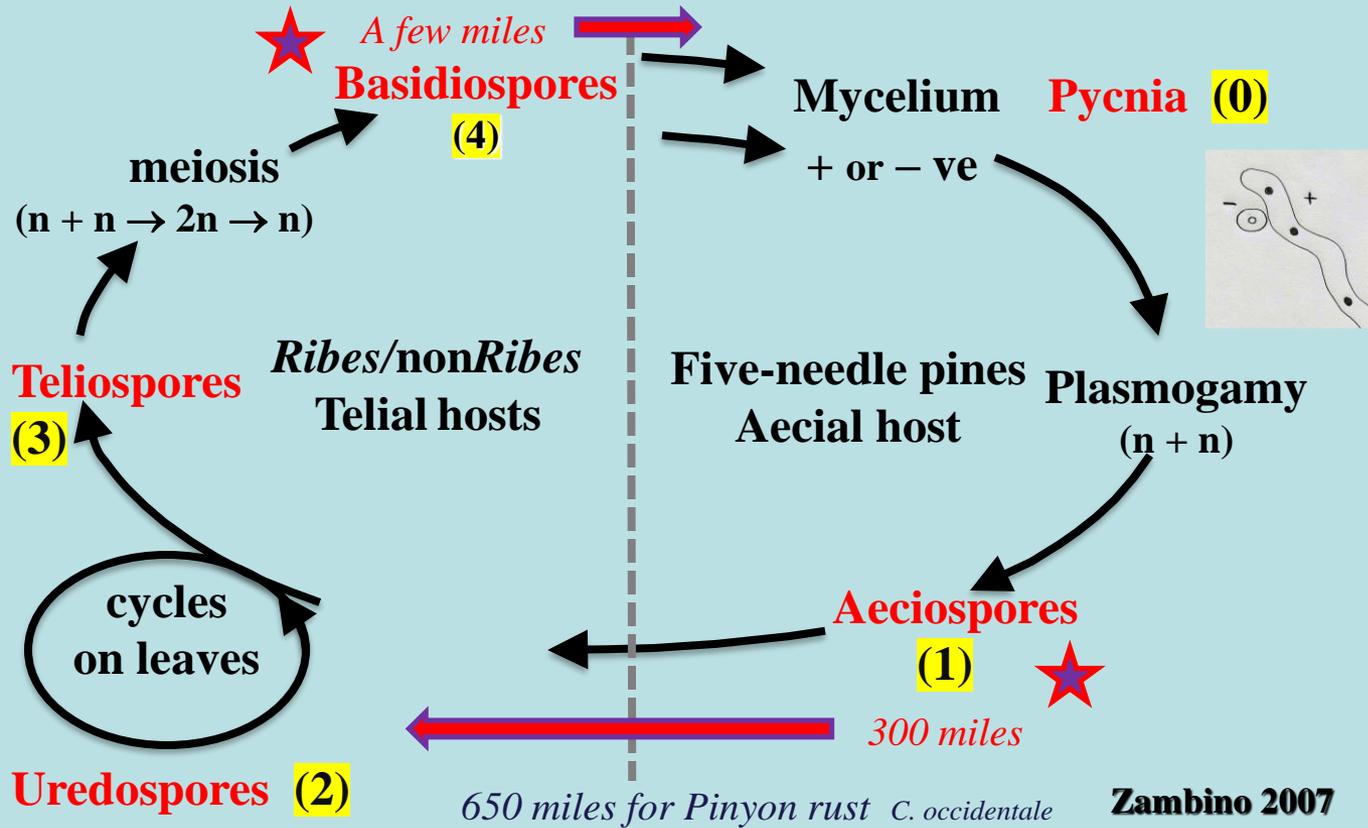


# 1 Host (Pine) helps the Ribes Rust get through the winter !

# Life Cycle of North American *Cronartium ribicola*

Ribes

Pine



As early as 1898, a German Forester, **Dr. Carl A. Schenck**, was demonstrating German Forestry Practices in the United States and advocated against introducing Eastern White Pine seedlings from Europe on the grounds of the risk from WPBR.

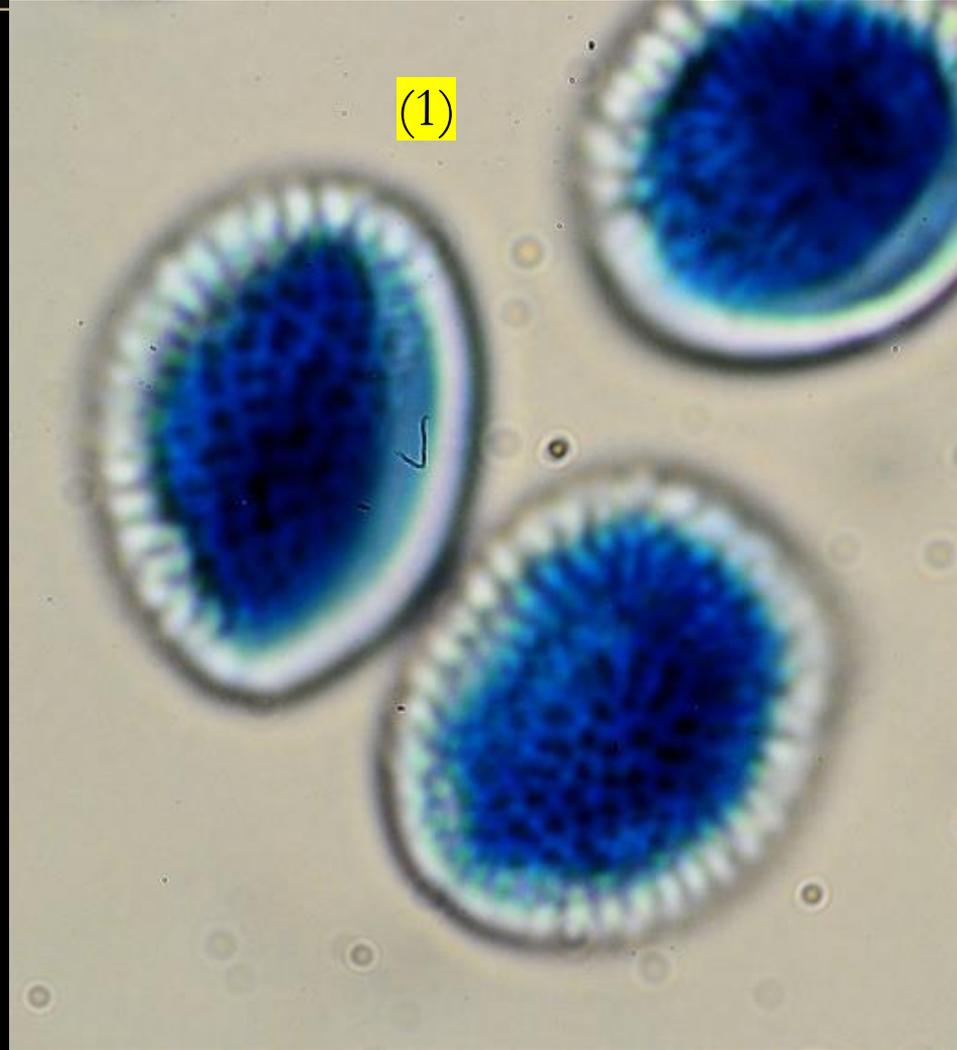
In 1900 around 95% of European households grew Black Currant bushes, the number one Ribes host.

Annosus 1909 Chestnut blight 1904, Rust in Ribes 1904

Prof Robert Hartig and Meinecke R05 regional pathologist  
Ribena drink NHS (UK NIH) Tariffs relaxed early 1900's



*Cronartium ribicola*  
White Pine Blister Rust



# Managing *Ribes* spp.: Fire-adapted Pioneers with Long-Lived Seeds



*R. hudsonianum*  
var. *petiolare*



*R. lacustre*



*R. viscosissimum*

*R. inermis*

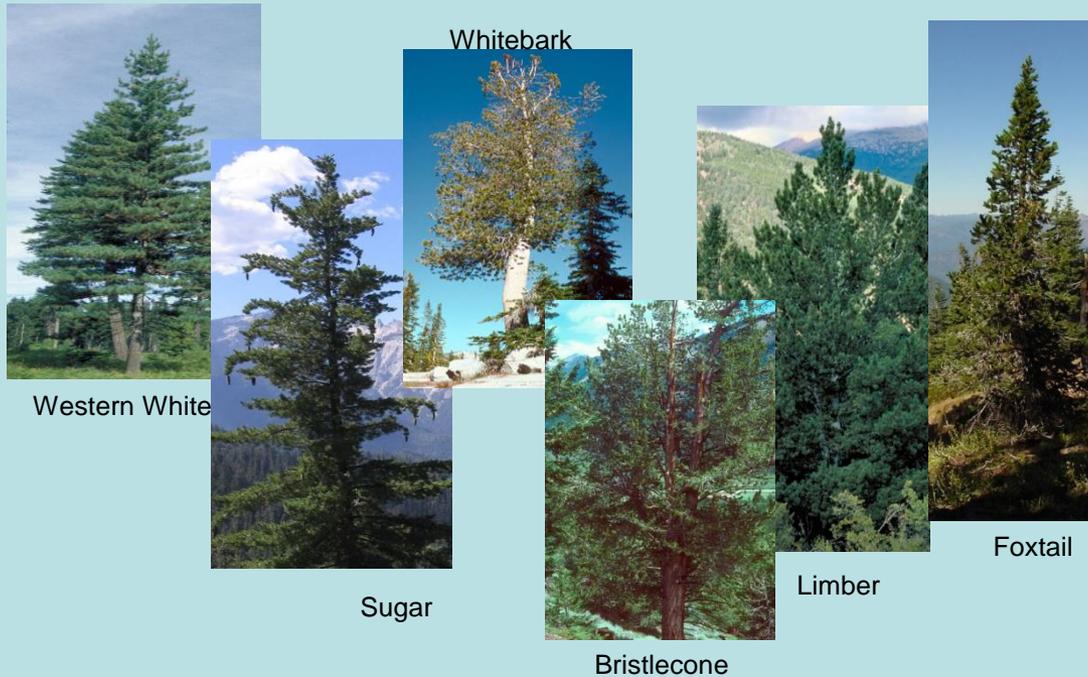
Some of the 90  
spp

**Telial hosts:** *Castilleja* *miniata* *Grossularia* *cynosbati*, *G. reclinata* *G. rotundifolia*, *Grossularia* sp., *Pedicularis* *apodochila*, *P. bracteosa*, *P. euphrasioides*, *P. japonica*, *P. oederi*, *P. racemosa* *P. resupinata* *P. resupinata* var. *ramosa* *P. schistostegia*, *P. spicata*, *P. yezoensis*, *Peridermium* *kurilense*, *P. strobi*,(4)

*Ribes* *acuminatum*, *R. alpinum*, *R. altissimum*, *R. ambiguum*, *R. americanum*, *R. atropurpureum*, *R. aureum*, *R. binominatum*, *R. bracteosum*, *R. cereum*, *R. coelesta*, *R. coloradense*, *R. cruentum*, *R. cynosbati*, *R. diacanthum*, *R. dikuscha* var. *appendiculata*, *R. divaricatum*, *R. divaricatum* var. *inerine*, *R. emodense*, *R. erythrocarpum*, *R. fasciculatum*, *R. fasciculatum* var. *chinense*, *R. floridum*, *R. formosanum*, *R. fragens*, *R. fuscescens*, *R. glaciale*, *R. glandulosum*, *R. griffithii*, *R. grossularia*, *R. himalensis*, *R. hirtellum*, *R. hispidulum*, *R. howellii*, *R. hudsonianum*, *R. inerme*, *R. integrifolium*, *R. irriguum*, *R. japonicum*, *R. klamathense*, *R. lacustre*, *R. latifolium*, *R. laxiflorum*, *R. lobbii*,  
*R. magellanicum*, *R. mandshuricum*, *R. marshallii*, *R. maximowiczianum*, *R. maximowiczii*, *R. meyeri*, *R. missouriense*, *R. moupinense*, *R. nevadense*, *R. nigrum*, *R. niveum*, *R. odoratum*, *R. orientale*, *R. oxyacanthoides*, *R. oxyacanthoides* var. *hirtellum*, *R. palczewskii*, *R. pallidiflorum*, *R. pauciflorum*, *R. petraeum*, *R. pinetorum*, *R. procumbens*, *R. prostratum*, *R. roezlii*, *R. roezlii* var. *cruentum*, *R. rotundifolium*, *R. rubrum*, *R. sachalinense*, *R. sanguineum*, *R. sativum*, *R. setosum*, *R. sinanense*, *Ribes* sp., *R. spicatum*, *R. sylvestre*, *R. tenue*, *R. triste*, *R. triste* var. *albinervium*, *R. uva-crispa*, *R. velutinum*, *R. vilmorinii*, *R. viscosissimum*, *R. viscosissimum*, *R. vulgare*, *R. warszewiczii*, *R. watsonianum*, and *R. × odoratum-sanguineum* (Farr and Rossman, 2022)

90 *Ribes* spp listed

# California White Pine Hosts



21 conifers  
90 spp of Ribes  
17 non Ribes

**CA Bristlecone not yet a confirmed host.**

# California White Pine Hosts



Western White



Whitebark



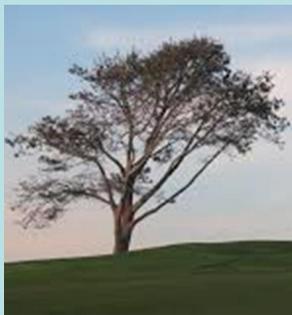
Sugar



Limber



Foxtail



Torrey \*



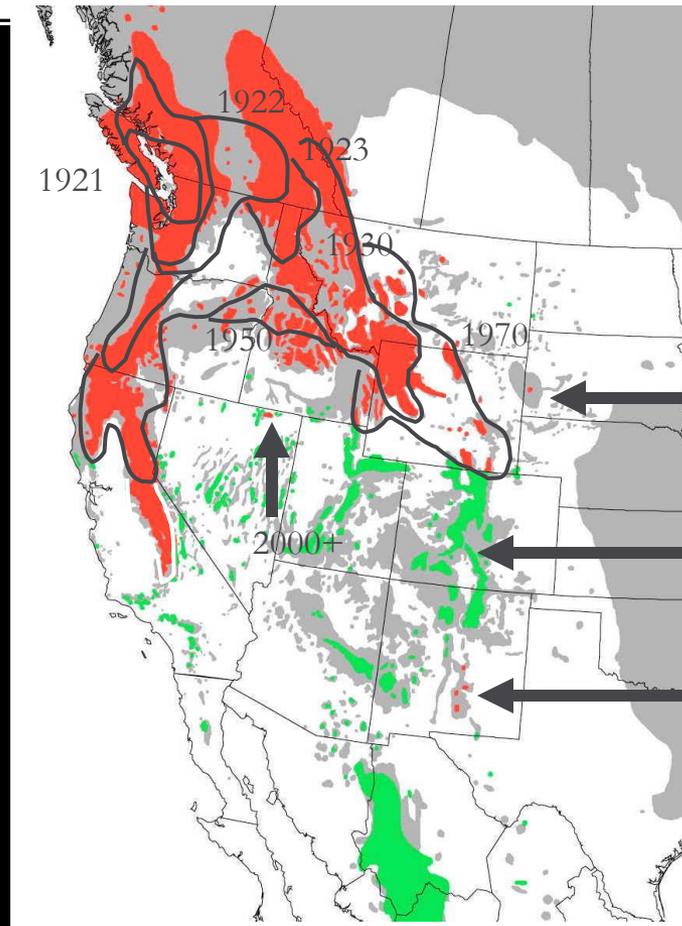
Bristlecone \*

Seven  
5-needle pines  
In CA

*Pinus albicaulis*, *P. aristata*, *P. armandii*,  
*P. ayacahuite*, *P. balfouriana*, *P. cembra* Swiss EU,  
*P. cembra var sibirica* Siberian, *P. flexilis*,  
*P. flexilis var. reflexa*, *P. koraiensis*,  
*P. lambertiana*, *P. monticola*, *P. parviflora*,  
*P. peuce* EU, *P. pumila*, *P. sibirica*, Siberian,  
*P. strobiformis*, *P. strobus*, ~~*P. sylvestris*~~,  
*P. taiwanensis*, and *P. wallichiana*.

21 spp Nation wide

## WESTERN NORTH AMERICAN SPREAD



Dates of detection  
Distribution by  
Eric Smith, 2003

2000+

2004- Bristlecone pine

1998 southwestern white  
pine

# Dead Branch “Flags” in Sugar Pine



(1)

By inoculation



# Young Blister Rust Canker

- Yellow margin
- Centered on branch
- Elongated

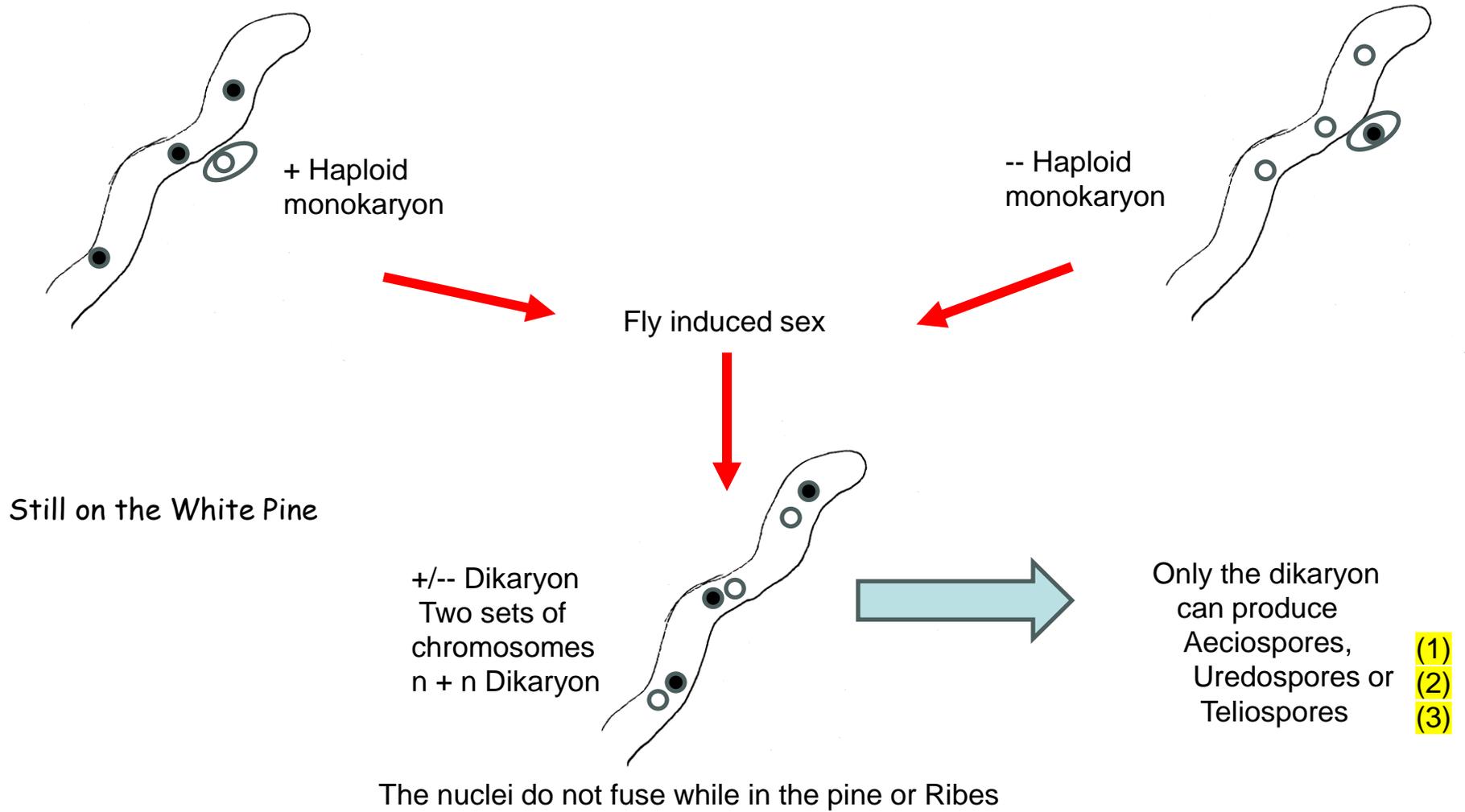


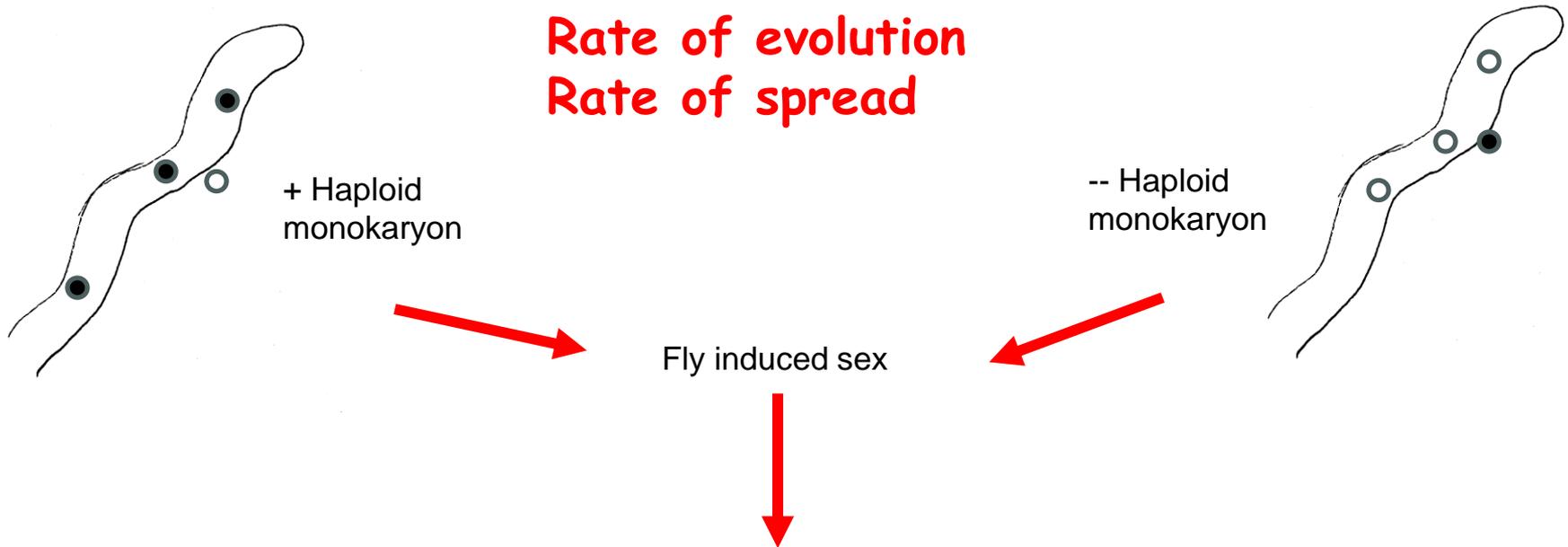
# Pycniospores (0)

- Sticky yellow to orange
- Smelly
- Sugary
- Spread by flies
- Sexual function



(0)





A Darwinists point of view. Breeding equals Domestication, and a good obligate parasite does not kill its host! So, its balanced arms race, as the host tries to get one or two genes ahead of the pest and the pest tries out variations to get ahead of the host. Either way change, spread, and or evolution are slow.



Aecia

Aeciospores (1) take the rust to Ribes  
Aeciospores are coloured and thick walled.  
Aeciospores resist desiccation and UV  
Aeciospores may travel 300 miles





Powdery Urediniospores for Cycling; (2)  
Then Hair-Like Teliospores (3) → Basidiospores (4) → Pine

*Ribes* alternate hosts





Urediniospores ( $n + n$ ) (2)

Ribes to Ribes

Ribes to Pine late in the summer

Teliospores (3 is  $2n$ )

Basidiospores  
(4 is  $1n$ )

Before shedding of leaves

# 1 Host (Pine) helps the "Ribes Rust" get through the winter !



Urediniospores (2)

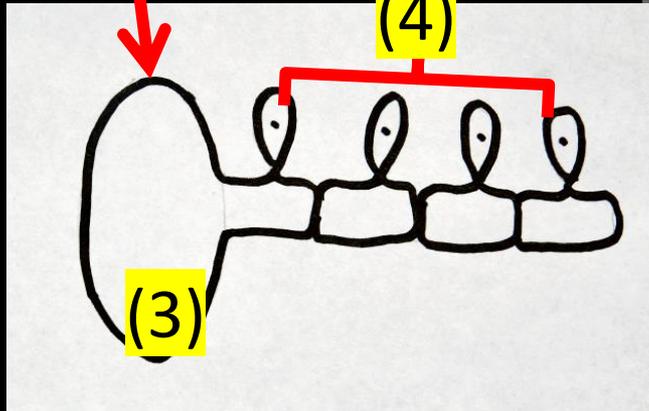


Telial (3) horns that produce basidiospores  
(4)

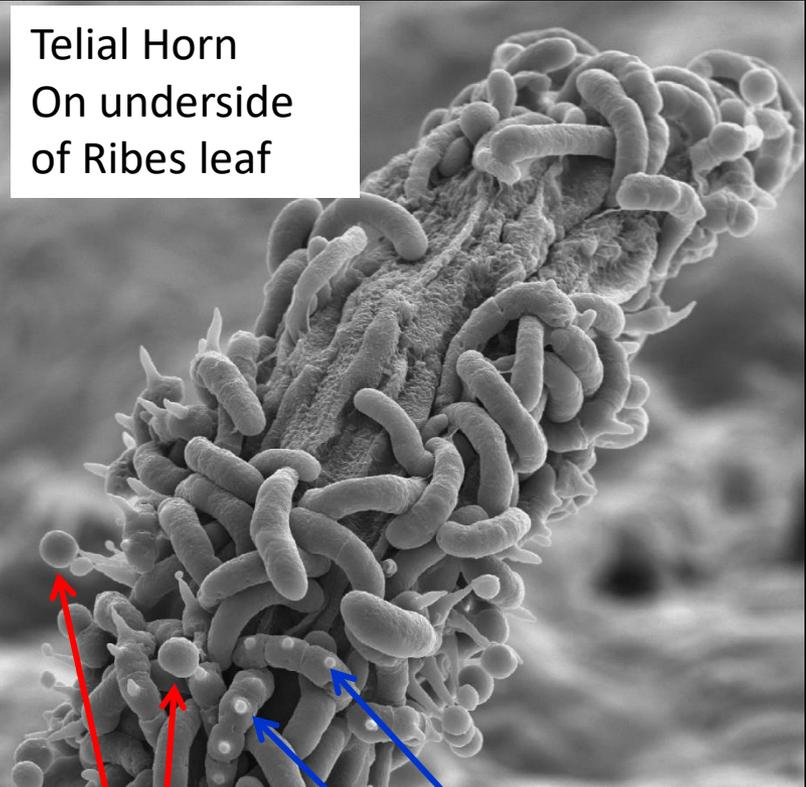
Photos by Joan Dudney

Basidiospores shot from Teliospores infect pine needles

(2n) germinated teliospore produces 4 basidiospores (1n)



Telial Horn  
On underside  
of Ribes leaf

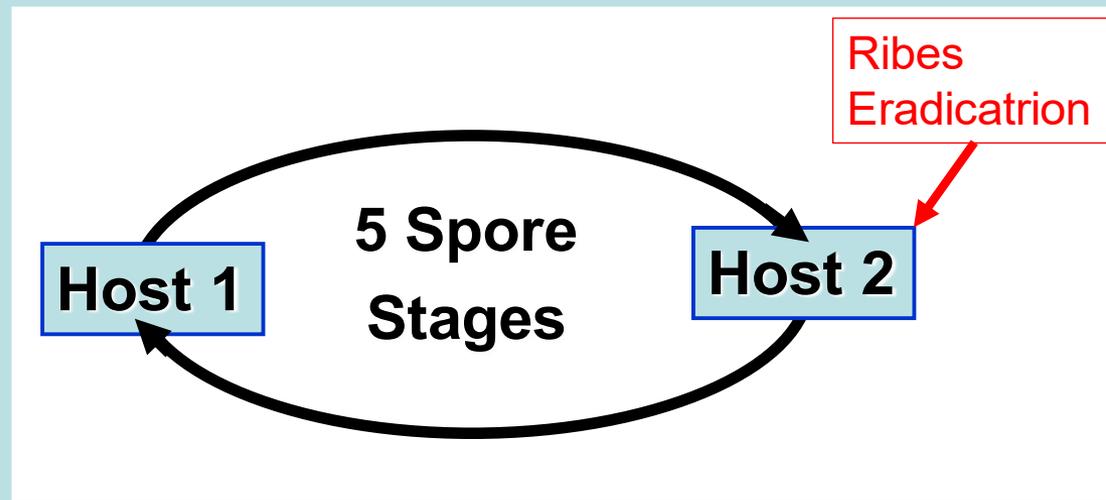


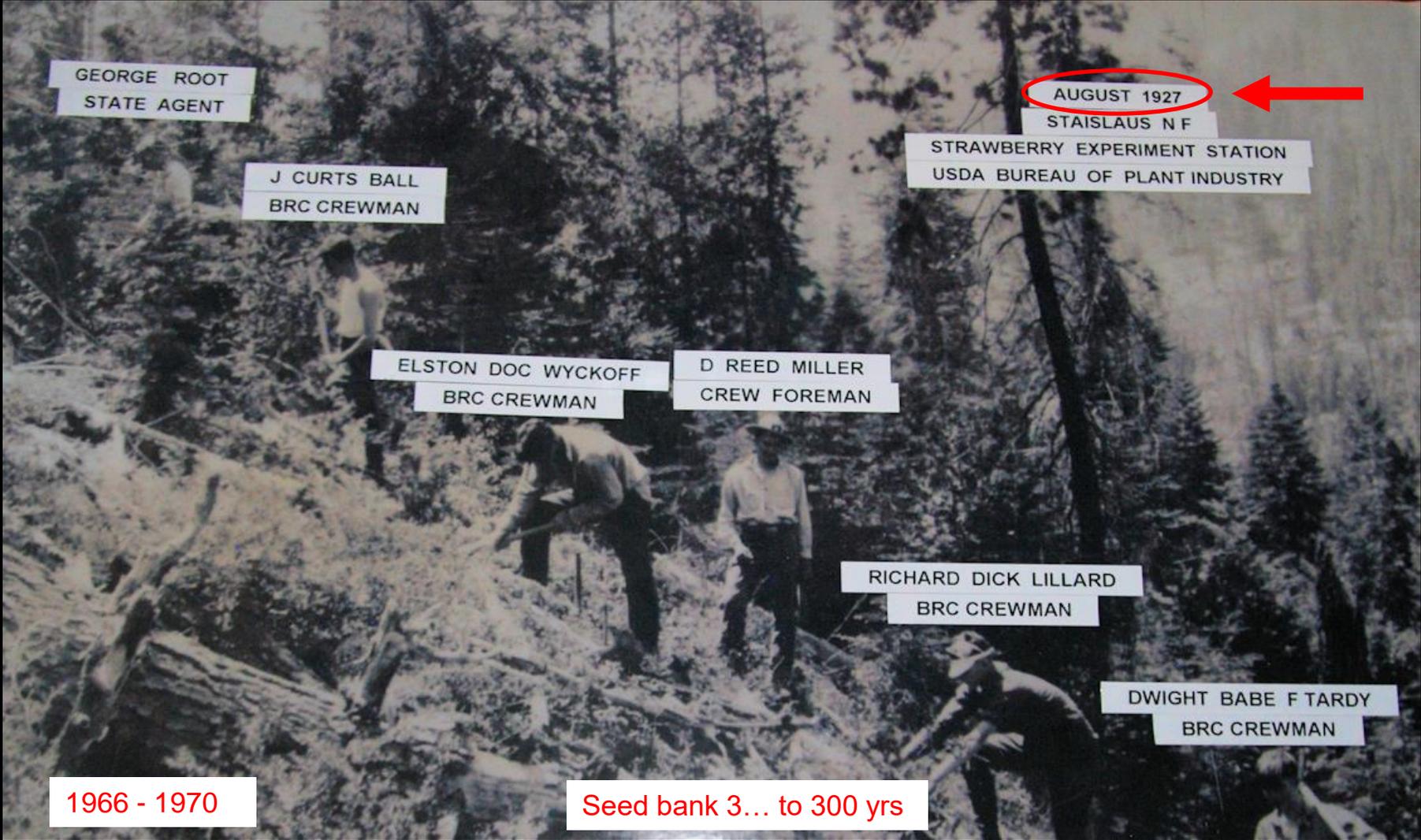
Basidiospores  
mature

Basidiospores  
developing

# *Ribes* Eradication

- Historically Tried
- Still Done in Some Selected Eastern Areas
- Doesn't Work in the West





GEORGE ROOT  
STATE AGENT

J CURTS BALL  
BRC CREWMAN

ELSTON DOC WYCKOFF  
BRC CREWMAN

D REED MILLER  
CREW FOREMAN

RICHARD DICK LILLARD  
BRC CREWMAN

DWIGHT BABE F TARDY  
BRC CREWMAN

AUGUST 1927  
STAISSLAUS N F



STRAWBERRY EXPERIMENT STATION  
USDA BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

1966 - 1970

Seed bank 3... to 300 yrs

## FIRST ERADICATION MAP

-  INITIAL ERADICATION
-  SECOND ERADICATION
-  THIRD ERADICATION
-  FOURTH ERADICATION
-  FIFTH ERADICATION

34-41 YEAR OF ERADICATION

-  BOUNDARY OF YEAR'S WORK
-  CONTROL UNIT BOUNDARY

## CONCENTRATION AND STANDARD MAPS

### CONCENTRATIONS

-  RIBES 0-25 FLS PER ACRE
-  26 FLS-30 RIBES PER ACRE
-  31-150 RIBES PER ACRE
-  151-1000 RIBES PER ACRE
-  OVER 1000 RIBES PER ACRE

### STANDARDS

-  RIBES FREE
-  WORKED TO 8 FLS PER ACRE
-  WORKED TO 16 FLS PER ACRE
-  WORKED TO 25 FLS PER ACRE
-  WORKED TO NO RIBES OVER 25 FLS

### OWNERSHIP

-  FEDERAL
-  STATE
-  LARGE OWNERS

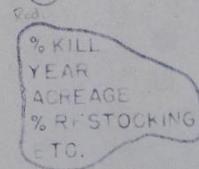
## SECOND ERADICATION MAP

-  THIRD ERADICATION
-  FOURTH ERADICATION
-  FIFTH ERADICATION
-  SIXTH ERADICATION
-  SEVENTH ERADICATION

## DISTURBANCE

-  YEAR OF DISTURBANCE
-  34-40
-  41-44
-  45-48
-  49-52

## FIRE

-  0-10 ACRES
-  OVER 10 ACRES

 LOG-BURN

 BURN-SALVAGE LOG

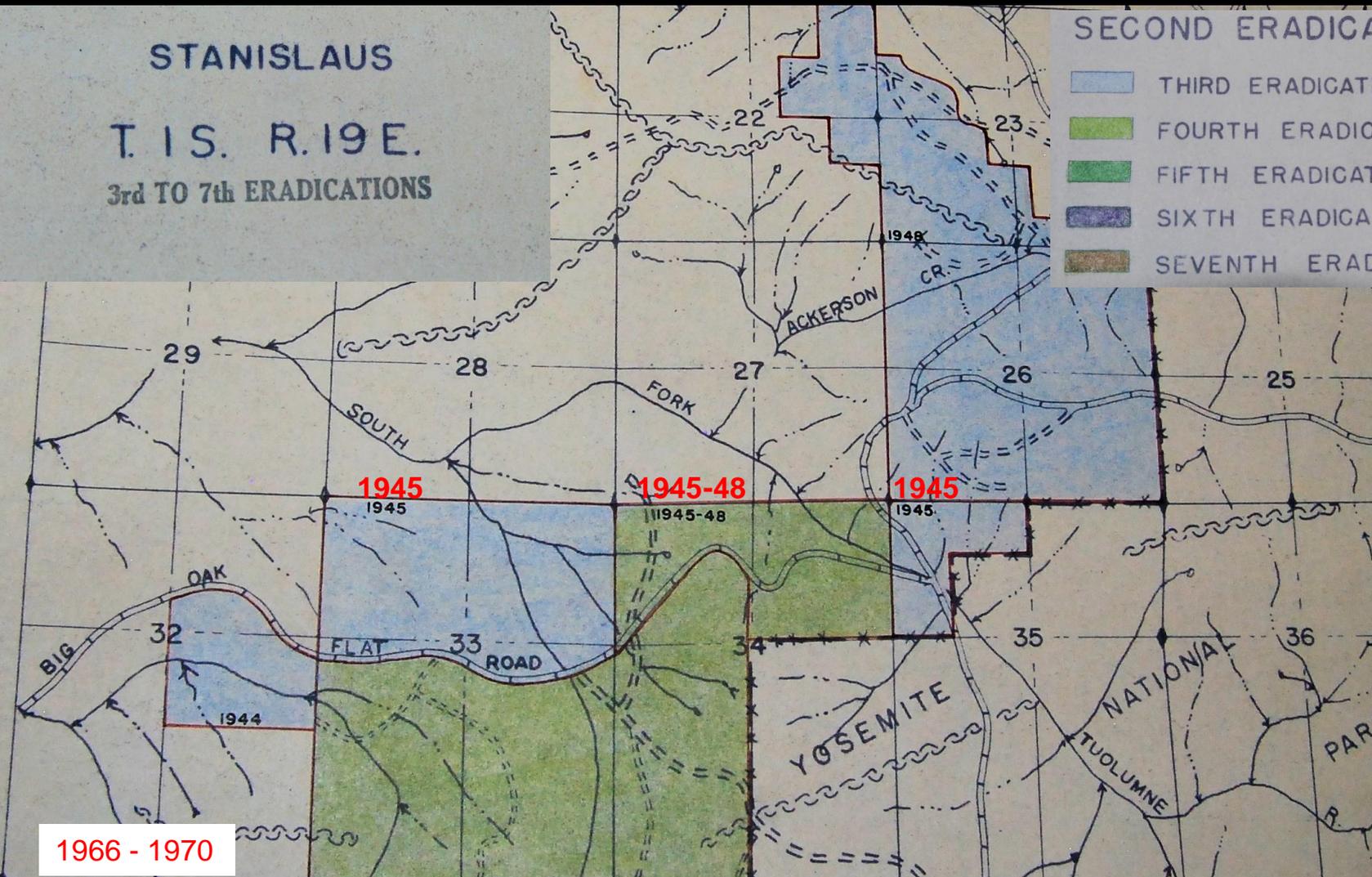
# STANISLAUS

## T. 1 S. R. 19 E.

### 3rd TO 7th ERADICATIONS

#### SECOND ERADICATION MAP

- THIRD ERADICATION
- FOURTH ERADICATION
- FIFTH ERADICATION
- SIXTH ERADICATION
- SEVENTH ERADICATION



1966 - 1970

Great depression 1929 - 1939

Bonnors Ferry Herald

29<sup>th</sup> Mar 1934

# 34 WHITE PINE BLISTER RUST CAMPS IN AREA

Concentrated Campaign Against Plant  
Disease to Be Started in Pend  
Oreille National Forest.

## CCC CAMPS ARE COMING

At Least Three and Possibly Four for  
Boundary County.

Thirty-four white pine blister rust control camps, employing 1020 men, will be established in the Pend Oreille national forest from May 25 to May 1, it was learned last Friday when J. E. Ryan, forest supervisor, returned from Spokane, where he attended a conference of western forest supervisors, to his headquarters at Sandpoint.

There will be 30 men to a camp, it is said, and the men will work on the 40-hour per week basis, with pay at 50 cents per hour for inexperienced men and 60 cents an hour for experienced workers. Board will be charged at \$1 per day.

Of the 34 camps in the Pend Oreille forest, three will be located on the east side of Priest lake in state timber, while the balance will be scattered throughout the Priest range in the virgin white pine timber.

The men will be selected from Boundary county and Pend Oreille county, according to Mr. Ryan. They will be employed from 10 to 15 by the national re-employment offices in the three counties. Preference will be given to experienced men, it is said.

### Will Be 13 CCC Camps.

It is reported from Sandpoint that the 13 civilian conservation corps camps which were tentatively allocated to the Pend Oreille national forest earlier in the month have been confirmed. Nine of these will be located in Bonner county, three in Boundary county and one in Pend Oreille county.

FDR's New deal

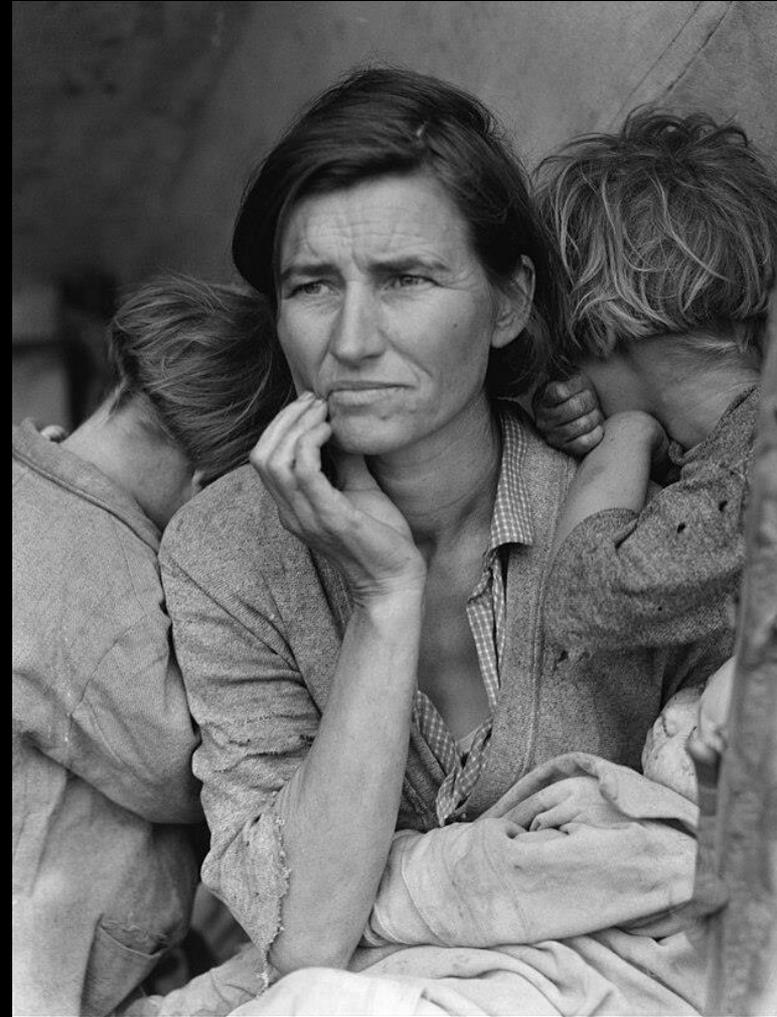
1933 - 1942

\$33/mo \$25/mo to your family.

which was started last year, to well up toward the headwater stream. The work of continuing road has already started. A six men, under Charles Tighe, who recently resigned his position as state engineer on the Porth project to accept employment in the forestry department, is pushing construction which was started last fall. It is understood the road can be built through



The cook house    \$50 wages minus \$1 / day for meals and tent.







Even-aged management and fuels not a consideration back then!

Mechanical  
means



*USFS BRC worker pulling out Ribes. Photo from Museum of North Idaho / The  
Spokane Spokesman-Review*

\$50 for 160 hrs  
of pulling  
Ribes

31¼ cents / hr

Antibiotics



Actidione =  
Cycloheximide

Benedict 1981

Antibiotics



Phytoactin  
Ended 1966

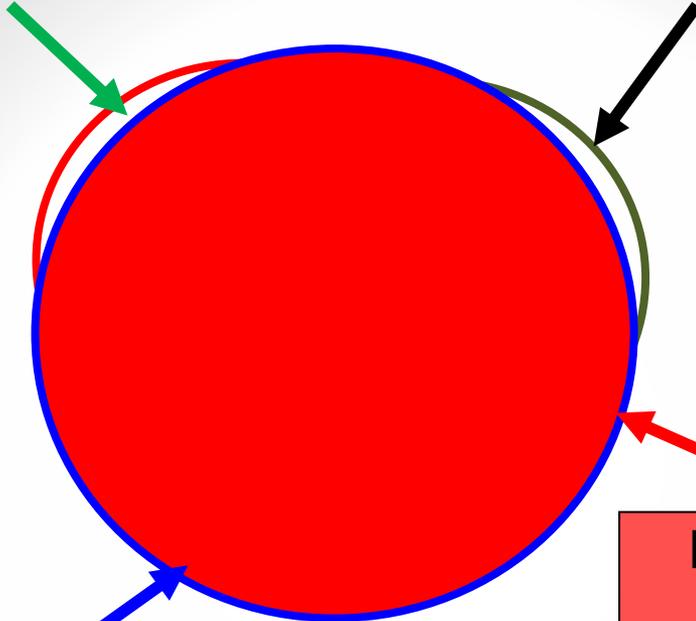
Benedict 1981





Presence of Root Diseases

Disposition of Bark Beetles.



Drought or Climate Change

Fate of the individual tree.  
i.e, Decline & or Death !

*It's a complex because,*

*One can not separate the insects from the fungi they facilitate and vice versa!*

# The 800 lb. Gorilla in the room: Climate Change

“White pines, *Ribes*, and blister rust: a review and synthesis.”

**Geils *et al* (2010)**

“... climate change alone could render many presently occupied habitats in OR, ID, CA & NV unsuitable for whitebark pine!”

*cites Warwell *et al* (2007)*