

# FOREST PATHOLOGY

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## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

It is hoped that this volume will serve both as a text and as a reference book, in that the large number of selected literature citations which are closely correlated with the text should make the work a useful reference for specialists, who generally have direct or indirect access to adequate libraries. Space limitations which made it impossible to develop a complete reference book also forbade a discussion of culture methods and other pathological technique, but these topics have been adequately treated by others, and, furthermore, they are of value largely to specialists.

Although effort has been made to correlate the lengths of the discussions on the various diseases with their relative economic importance, there is always a tendency on the part of an author to emphasize those with which he is personally experienced. Furthermore, no two authorities will quite agree on the relative importance of many different diseases. Then, too, conditions change, so that a disease which now seems important may in time be relegated to a minor position. On the other hand, with American chestnut approaching commercial extinction, justification for a detailed treatment of chestnut blight is that the discussion becomes a historical record of the behavior of a virulent introduced parasite, a record which may be valuable in connection with the behavior of future introduced diseases.

Years of practical experience followed by a shorter period of academic work convinced the author of the inadvisability of teaching pathology to forestry students on the basis of the taxonomic sequence of the causal organisms. The time allotted to pathology in forestry curricula is too brief to train students in the taxonomy and morphology of fungi without neglecting the practical aspects of the field and thus missing the real objective. Even if adequate time is available, within a few years after leaving school taxonomy is largely forgotten except by the few who have become specialists and continually use such information. However, foresters constantly use their knowledge of trees, so that a knowledge of tree diseases based on the parts of the tree affected as well as on the tree species is better retained, or, if forgotten, it is readily acquired again. Also, as developed in this volume, the sequence of diseases caused by pathogens roughly follows the life of the tree from the seedling to the veteran class. For those who have received no formal instruction in

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