Uromycladium tepperianum (Sacc.) McAlpine

Pathogen of the month – January 2008

**Uromycladium tepperianum** is the most widespread of the eight species within this genus of rust fungi. It is recorded on numerous species of wattles in Australia, being highly destructive on at least a number of species. This rust fungus is a successful biological control agent of *Acacia saligna* in South Africa, where it was introduced after it was demonstrated that the species consists of host species specific races.


**Key Contact:** Alan Wood ARC-PPRI (South Africa), e-mail: wooda@arc.agric.za; Fax: 0011 27 21 886 6479

---

**Disease:** Galls and witches’ brooms of wattles  
**Classification:** K: Fungi, D: Basidiomycota, C: Urediniomycetes, O: Urediniales, F: Pileolariaceae.

*Uromycladium tepperianum* is recorded from approximately 120 species of Australian *Acacia*, and *Paraserianthes lophantha* subsp. *lophantha*. In addition, it has been recorded on *P. lophantha* subsp. *montana* in Indonesia (Java) and *P. falcata* in Indonesia (East Timor) and the Philippines.

**Host Range:**  
*U. tepperianum* is recorded from approximately 120 species of Australian *Acacia*, and *Paraserianthes lophantha* subsp. *lophantha*. In addition, it has been recorded on *P. lophantha* subsp. *montana* in Indonesia (Java) and *P. falcata* in Indonesia (East Timor) and the Philippines.

**Impact:** Growth and seed production is greatly reduced on plant species heavily parasitized, and these species suffer high mortality rates. However, not all recorded host species are heavily parasitized.

**Distribution on Paraserianthes lophantha:**  
*P. lophantha* subsp. *lophantha* (Cape Wattle, Crested Wattle, Albizia) is an emerging environmental weed in South Africa. Biological control of this plant using *U. tepperianum* is currently being considered, based on the safe and effective use of this pathogen against *A. saligna* in South Africa. However, during recent surveys for potential biocontrol agents in WA, this rust fungus was only found at a single locality (southern end of Boranup Drive, near Karridale). Further localities are being sought. It would be greatly appreciated if anybody who knows of, or who finds, infestations of *U. tepperianum* on *P. lophantha* would contact Alan Wood (see contact details below) with the locality details.

---

**Figures:***  
2. 3-4. (b). *U. tepperianum* galls on stem (3) and inflorescence (4) of *P. lophantha* subsp. *lophantha* in WA.  
Photo credits: 1-2 Lesley Henderson, (SA plant invader atlas project; http://www.agis.agric.za/wip/) ; 3-4 Alan Wood, ARC-PPRI South Africa.