Proportion of the *Endothia parasitica* Biomass that is Hypovirulent in Two Surviving American Chestnut Trees

GRIFFIN, Gary J., and HEBARD, Fred V.
Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

ELKINS, John R., and GALLUZZI, Kate
Division of Natural Sciences
Concord College
Athens, West Virginia 24712

Tissue samples from the lateral or inner radial margins of cankers on two surviving American chestnut trees were plated on acidified potato-dextrose agar. *Endothia parasitica* isolates growing from these infected tissues were tested for pathogenicity on American chestnut stump sprouts in the Jefferson National Forest. Of approximately 100 isolates obtained from all portions of an American chestnut tree growing near Centerville, Virginia, about one-third were hypovirulent (weakly pathogenic), slightly more than half were virulent, and the remainder were intermediate. Hypovirulent isolates produced small cankers (5 cm or less in length after 4 months), and only superficial infection or the bark. All of about 28 :isolates obtained from an American chestnut tree growing near Summers, West Virginia, were virulent.