

# Myrtle Rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) Science Stocktake

Various agencies have contributed information to this review of past and current Myrtle Rust research and the Challenge would like to acknowledge the willingness agencies have shown to engage in Ngā Rākau Taketake (NRT) by sharing their research data to help us better understand the research landscape. Accessing and pulling data such as this together is a complex task and we are fully aware that that this list may not be complete.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP:** This is a living document and we need your help to find those additional publications, research projects or programmes that we may not be aware of. If you have information on Myrtle Rust research that has been undertaken within the New Zealand science system, Masters, PhD's, internally funded projects, larger MBIE programmes etc., we would appreciate you letting us know via email to [NRTsupport@bioheritage.nz](mailto:NRTsupport@bioheritage.nz)

Title	Description	Funded by	Lead organisation	Status	Myrtle Rust SSAG Theme	Year completed	Output/Outcome
Assessing long range dispersal spread of myrtle rust to New Zealand mainland	The principal focus of this work was to assess the risk of aerial spread of myrtle rust spores from each of Australia, Raoul Island, and New Caledonia to the main islands of New Zealand, in areas not yet affected by the disease, and from known infected areas to other not yet infected places. The work provided information on the risk and change of risk of aerial spread, if any, as the result of myrtle rust detection in Raoul Island. The derived information will be crucial, if aerial transmission risk has increased.	Ministry for Primary Industries	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research	Complete	Surveillance, monitoring and impact of disease	Unknown	The initial contract was completed and further work funded. Outcomes used internally in management.
Assessing the risk of long-range aerial dispersal of Myrtle Rust to New Zealand and Raoul Island	Due to the potential aerial spread of the Myrtle rust spores, NIWA has conducted comprehensive modelling assessment of long-range aerial transport opportunities for spores to be blown to New Zealand from sources in the East Coast of Australia and New Caledonia, where Myrtle Rust is established, as well as from Raoul Island where it was detected in early 2017. The assessment was carried out for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. NIWA was also requested to monitor possible ongoing airborne transport to New Zealand from external sources after June 30, 2017 and to also model possible aerial transport from infected sites within New Zealand. The output provided to MPI is intended to provide guidance for surveillance efforts by identifying areas of potentially greater exposure to Myrtle Rust spores.	Ministry for Primary Industries	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research	Complete	Surveillance, monitoring and impact of disease	2017	<a href="#">Turner R, Moore S, Paul V. 2017. Assessing the risk of long-range aerial dispersal of Myrtle Rust to New Zealand and Raoul Island. NIWA CLIENT REPORT No: 2017152WN Report</a>

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Title	Description	Funded by	Lead organisation	Status	Myrtle Rust SSAG Theme	Year completed	Output/Outcome
Biosecurity network interventions	Research focused on network analyses of pathways, routes of spread of pests and pathogens, and 'nodes' or hotspots that may be hubs for spread throughout NZ. PhD research is exploring the potential to develop a Myrtle Rust Incursion Model using MPI data. Data collected from 13 nurseries and 70 public land spaces in mainland New Zealand following the 2017 incursion of myrtle rust will be used to network the spread of myrtle rust through New Zealand and identify whether human mediated dispersal played a role in pathogen spread during early stages of the incursion.	BioHeritage National Science Challenge	Bio-Protection Research Centre	Current	Surveillance, monitoring and impact of disease	N/A	Preliminary analyses of these data have not indicated a link between human mediated dispersal and the initial outbreak. Researchers associated with the Australian Department for Primary Industries have expressed interest in supplying information on the Australian response to the myrtle rust pathogen introduction which would allow for an international comparison study of outbreak responses.
Developing surveillance and monitoring tools	The project developed a framework for long-term surveillance and monitoring of myrtle rust in New Zealand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. ground-based tools to assist with the long-term surveillance and monitoring of myrtle rust in New Zealand;</li> <li>ii. these ground-based tools were used to monitor the incidence and progression of myrtle rust on native species under natural conditions;</li> <li>iii. the potential of remote sensing technologies to provide alternative methods to monitor difficult to access material or extensive forest areas were investigated</li> </ul>	Ministry for Primary Industries	Scion	Complete	Surveillance, monitoring and impact of disease	2019	<a href="#">Ganley B &amp; Beresford R. 2019. Improved myrtle rust surveillance: Selection of indicator species for surveillance (3.1-5) Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2019/20</a>  <a href="#">Ganley B, Soewarto J, Sutherland R, Froud K, Marsh A, Leonardo EM, Pearse G. 2019. Improved myrtle rust surveillance (3.1- 2 &amp; 3.1 -3). Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No.: 2019/21</a>
Development of a Lucid key	This project aims to rapidly identify <i>Myrtaceae</i> plants even by a lay person who comes across suspected Myrtle rust symptoms, so that reporting, control and long-term management of the devastating disease is enabled.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Manaaki Whenua	Current	Surveillance, monitoring and impact of disease	N/A	The completed key will contain images, species profiles and character explanations to help identify this culturally, ecologically, and economically important family. To be completed by 30 June 2020.
General/citizen-led surveillance framework for biosecurity incursions	Research focus on building apps for public use to detect biosecurity incursions, and analysis of data formerly called 'passive surveillance' data to strengthen the biosecurity system. The pilot trial of the app was 'Myrtle Rust Reporter', and this part is complete.	BioHeritage National Science Challenge	Scion	Complete	Surveillance, monitoring and impact of disease	2019	<p>The Myrtle Rust Reporter part of this project is complete. The app is publicly available from <a href="#">Playstore</a> (uploaded by 500+ customer) and <a href="#">iStore</a>. Linked to the <a href="#">iNaturalist</a> site where myrtle rust observational information from app users can found in relation to location, host species, identifier and observer.</p> <p><a href="#">Grant A, Pawson SM, Marxano, M. (2019) Emerging stakeholder relations in participatory ICT design: renegotiating the boundaries of sociotechnical innovation in forest biosecurity surveillance. Forests, 10, 836; 1-24</a></p> <p>Pawson SM, Sullivan J, Grant A. Expanding general surveillance of invasive species by integrating citizens as both observers and identifiers. <i>J. Pest Sc. Rev.</i> in preparation.</p>

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Title	Description	Funded by	Lead organisation	Status	Myrtle Rust SSAG Theme	Year completed	Output/Outcome
Generic rust pathways	The long-distance dispersal of many plant pathogens has been well documented. This phenomenon is also common in Australasia, with wind currents and movement of people and possibly plant material facilitating introduction of several rust pathogens from Australia to New Zealand. The history of the arrival, survival and spread of three rust pathogens from Australia to New Zealand is outlined. This information is used to assess the risks posed to New Zealand by other rust pathogens that occur in Australia and to assess ways to minimise these risks.	New Zealand Foundation for Research, Science and Technology	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Surveillance, monitoring and impact of disease	2002	<a href="#">Viljanen-Rollinson SLH, Cromey MG 2002. Pathways of entry and spread of rust pathogens: Implications for New Zealand's biosecurity. <i>New Zealand Plant Protection</i> 55: 42-48.</a>
Generic rust pathways	Modelling dispersal across the Tasman Sea using historic data	New Zealand's Foundation for Research, Science and Technology	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Surveillance, monitoring and impact of disease	2008	<a href="#">Kim KS, Beresford RM 2008. Use of a spectrum model and satellite cloud data in the simulation of wheat stripe rust (<i>Puccinia striiformis</i>) dispersal across the Tasman Sea in 1980. <i>Agricultural and Forest Meteorology</i> 148: 1374-1382.</a>
Mapping myrtle species distribution	<b>Project 1:</b> Development of national-scale species distribution models (SDMs) for all native Myrtaceae species based on occurrence records from vegetation plot records, DOC's Bioweb database, national herbaria and citizen science databases. <b>Project 2:</b> Developing improved remote sensing methods for mapping <i>Metrosideros</i> species in New Zealand. Using mix of remote sensing technologies and novel machine learning methods.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Scion	Complete	Surveillance, monitoring and impact of disease	2019	<a href="#">Pearse G, Soewarto J, Watt M, Estarija H. 2019. Developing improved methods for mapping <i>Metrosideros</i> species in New Zealand. <i>Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No.: 2019/23</i></a>  <a href="#">McCarthy JK, Richardson SJ, Cooper JA, Bellingham PJ, Wisser SK. 2019. Species distribution models of the native New Zealand Myrtaceae. <i>Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No.: 2019/22</i></a>
Mapping of native Myrtaceae species in New Zealand	To enhance and improve 'polygonised' species maps previously created for 19 native Myrtaceae taxa.	Department of Conservation	Manaaki Whenua	Complete	Surveillance, monitoring and impact of disease	2017	<a href="#">Wisser, SK, Cooper JA, Arnst EA and Richardson SJ. 2017. Mapping of native Myrtaceae species in New Zealand. <i>Contract Report LC3065 (MWLR)</i></a>
Molecular diagnostics	Development of a molecular method to quickly and accurately identify myrtle rust.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Ministry for Primary Industries	Complete	Surveillance, monitoring and impact of disease	2016	<a href="#">Baskarathevan J, Taylor RK, Ho W, McDougal RL, Shivas RG, Alexander BJR. 2016. Real-time PCR Assays for the detection of <i>Puccinia psidii</i>. <i>Plant Disease</i> 100: (3) 617-624.</a>
Myrtaceae DNA barcoding reference library	In 2014 MPI funded Scion to develop a molecular barcoding database to allow reliable and rapid identification of Myrtaceae plants to the species, as part of their preparedness plan. The barcoding database can determine all New Zealand Myrtaceae present to genus and over 100 to species level.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Scion	Complete	Surveillance, monitoring and impact of disease	2016	<a href="#">Buys MH, Flint HJ, Miller EM, Yao H, Caird AR and Ganley RJ. 2016. Preparing for the invasion: Efficacy of DNA barcoding to discern the host range of myrtle rust (<i>Puccinia psidii</i>) among species of Myrtaceae. <i>Forestry: An International Journal of Forest Research</i>, Vol 89, Issue 3, 263-270</a>

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Title	Description	Funded by	Lead organisation	Status	Myrtle Rust SSAG Theme	Year completed	Output/Outcome
Myrtaceae DNA barcoding reference library	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> is morphologically a highly variable species found in mainland Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand. In New Zealand up to six morphologically distinct varieties of this species have been described, although only two ( <i>var. scoparium</i> and <i>var. incanum</i> ) are now formally recognized. In the present study we provide a first examination of genetic diversity in this culturally and commercially important species with the aim of gaining insights into its origins and evolution. Evolutionary and taxonomic implications are discussed.	Ministry for Primary Industries / Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)	Scion	Complete	Surveillance, monitoring and impact of disease	2018	<a href="#">Buys MH, Winkworth R, Lange PJ, Wilson P, Mitchell N, Lemmon A, Lemmon E, Holland S, Cherry J, Klápště J. 2019. The phylogenomics of diversification on an island: applying anchored hybrid enrichment to New Zealand <i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> (Myrtaceae). <i>Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society</i>. Vol 191. Issue 1, 1-17</a>
Myrtle rust detection kit	Development of an innovative molecular technique to use in an inexpensive and easy kit that can be deployed in the field, that will successfully diagnose all biotypes of <i>Puccinia psidii</i> and the asexual Uredoforms while not cross-reacting with any rust fungi present in NZ and other <i>Puccinia</i> species. This approach will build on the success model of a Generic LFD test kit for <i>Phytophthora</i> , extending to make use of DNA isothermal amplification without the need for an expensive device.	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment - Strategic Science Investment Fund (MBIE – SSIF)	Manaaki Whenua	Complete	Surveillance, monitoring and impact of disease	2019	Together with Dr Richard Winkworth (Massey University) the optimisation, specificity and sensitivity experiments of the LAMP assay for myrtle rust has been completed. A paper is being authored by R Winkworth, S Bellgard and C Probst and will be peer reviewed and submitted for publication in late 2019/early 2020.
Rapid Field Detection of the Highly Invasive Myrtle Rust Pathogen	Fungus <i>Puccinia psidii</i> has been deemed a high priority for MPI readiness and response. The LFD would be a plant health diagnostic tool which could be purchased for the following purposes: In-field use to determine the presence of absence of myrtle rust thereby allowing a quick response to limit its spread into nature reserves, state forests and urban areas etc., An easy to use tool for both passive and targeted surveillance. This would be the first time an LFD has been developed for myrtle rust	Ministry for Primary Industries	Food and Environment Research Agency (United Kingdom)	Complete	Surveillance, monitoring and impact of disease	2018	Work commenced but at an early milestone stage it was not looking promising so it was discontinued. "While the LFD has been deployed during the outbreak in New Zealand, the project team has agreed to discontinue further development work due to the limited long-term use of the LFD by MPI. Limitations identified are that it cannot always detect if infection levels are low or when they are pre-symptomatic. The LFD did not detect some of the samples with small amount of rust pustules."
Tools for Detection and Management	Key focus for this work is the development of rapid diagnostic and field-based detection methods for kaitiaki and land managers, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-design to Mātauranga-based with Mātauranga knowledge holders</li> <li>Co-design with key agencies (eg. DOC, MPI)</li> <li>Alternative disinfectants</li> <li>Mātauranga Māori-based bioactives</li> </ul>	BioHeritage National Science Challenge - Ngā Rākau Taketake	Scion	Current	Surveillance, monitoring and impact of disease	N/A	Updates to be provided via the <a href="#">BioHeritage website</a>

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Title	Description	Funded by	Lead organisation	Status	Myrtle Rust SSAG Theme	Year completed	Output/Outcome
<i>A. psidii</i> de novo genome sequencing	How <i>A. psidii</i> causes disease is unknown. Sequencing and analysing pathogen genomes has revealed potential mechanisms of pathogenicity that can be targeted by breeding or other responses. The only publicly available <i>A. psidii</i> sequence data is of low quality and is not suitable for analysis.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	2019	<a href="#">Chagné D, Deng C, Wu C, Templeton M, Smith G. 2019. MPI 18608 Project Report Topic 2.1 — <i>Austropuccinia psidii</i> de novo sequencing. <i>Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2019/39</i>.</a>
Assessing climatic risk of myrtle rust in NZ -	Updating climate matching models for myrtle rust and provide forecast and hind-cast simulations of changing risk profiles across NZ based on recent climate data and climate forecasts. This will help answer questions like “how will risks change as we head into winter?” or “where should we look for the disease in September?”	Ministry for Primary Industries	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	2018	<a href="#">Beresford RM, Turner R, Tait A, Paul V, Macara G, Yu ZD, Lima L &amp; Martin R. 2018. Predicting the climatic risk of myrtle rust during its first year in New Zealand. <i>NZ Plant Protection</i> 71, 332-347</a>
Sentinel plants	Assessing the impact of myrtle rust on NZ natives in Australia and Hawaii (sentinel plants)	Better Border Biosecurity	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	2013	Scott P, Miller E. 2013. Expatriate survey of native NZ <i>Myrtaceae</i> planted throughout Australia to determine their susceptibility to <i>Puccinia psidii</i> and improve management. New Zealand Forest Research Institute (Scion). 17 pp.
Assessment of the risk of introduction of other Myrtle Rust biotypes to NZ	The pandemic biotype of <i>Austropuccinia psidii</i> is the variant of this pathogen present in New Zealand. Two other biotypes, with different reactions on hosts, have been described overseas. It is important to understand the potential impact of these other biotypes should they arrive in this country by pro-actively screening New Zealand <i>Myrtaceae</i> for susceptibility.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	2019	<a href="#">Soewarto J, Sutherland R, Ganley B, du Plessis E, Barnes I, Wingfield M, Granados G. 2019. Topic 1.3 — Assessment of other myrtle rust biotypes. <i>Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2019/35</i></a>  <a href="#">J Soewarto, C Hamelin, S Bocs, P Mournet, H Vignes, Berger A, Armero A, Martin G, Dereeper A, Gautier S, Carriconde S, Maggia L. 2019. Transcriptome data from three endemic <i>Myrtaceae</i> species from New Caledonia displaying contrasting responses to myrtle rust (<i>Austropuccinia psidii</i>). <i>Data in Brief</i> (22) 794-811 (Funded by GLENCORE, IAC and CIRAD)</a>
<i>Austropuccinia psidii</i> (myrtle rust) infection rates on <i>Lophomyrtus</i> spp. fruits in New Zealand.	The objective of this study was to look at how the pathogen affects the development of <i>Lophomyrtus</i> spp. fruits and the effects on seed viability.	Department of Conservation	Scion	Complete	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	2019	Report pending, which will be made available following publication.

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Title	Description	Funded by	Lead organisation	Status	Myrtle Rust SSAG Theme	Year completed	Output/Outcome
Beyond Myrtle Rust: next generation tools to 'engineer' forest ecosystem resilience to plant pathogens  Research Area 1.1: Pathogen dynamics	This programme aims to accelerate understanding of pathogen dynamics, improve predictions of complex pathogen impacts on ecosystem function, develop novel, socially acceptable mitigation technologies and enhance kaitiakitanga within myrtle rust affected landscapes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of <i>A. psidii</i> population genetics and associated host symptoms.</li> <li>Sexual reproduction drives pathogen diversity and may widen host range - focus on understanding host/environmental drivers of sexual reproduction</li> <li>Both natural and planted Myrtaceae stands will be studied</li> </ul>	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)	Manaaki Whenua	Current	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	N/A	To be completed in 2023. For additional updates and information please go to the <a href="#">Beyond Myrtle Rust website</a> .  <a href="#">McTaggart AR, du Plessis E, Roux J, Barnes I, Fraser S, Granados GM, Ho WH, Shuey LS, Drenth A. 2019. Sexual reproduction in populations of <i>Austropuccinia psidii</i>. Eur J Plant Pathol. Vol. 155</a>
Beyond Myrtle Rust: next generation tools to 'engineer' forest ecosystem resilience to plant pathogens  Research Area 1.2: Ecosystem Impacts	This programme aims to accelerate understanding of pathogen dynamics, improve predictions of complex pathogen impacts on ecosystem function, develop novel, socially acceptable mitigation technologies and enhance kaitiakitanga within MR affected landscapes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad scale investigation of <i>A psidii</i> impacts on ecosystem functions, including nutrient and carbon cycling</li> <li>Impacts of pathogen spread on the forest microbiome both above and below ground will be explored.</li> <li>The influence of plant traits over disease susceptibility, infection mode, and rate of spread will be examined.</li> </ul>	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)	Manaaki Whenua	Current	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	N/A	To be completed in 2023. For additional updates and information please go to the <a href="#">Beyond Myrtle Rust website</a> .
Identification of asymptomatic periods	This project will characterise the asymptomatic period and other phases of the <i>Austropuccinia psidii</i> infection cycle in relation to key New Zealand (NZ) host species, their seasonal host growth and temperature. The data collected will be combined and modelled in order to accurately define the seasonal risk of Myrtle Rust development on native species in NZ.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	2019	<a href="#">Beresford RM, Shuey L, Pegg GS, Hasna L, Wright PJ, Kabir MS, Scheper RWA, King I, Walter M, Woolley. 2019. MPI 18608 Project Report Topic 1.2 — Identification of asymptomatic periods. <i>Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2019/34</i></a>

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Title	Description	Funded by	Lead organisation	Status	Myrtle Rust SSAG Theme	Year completed	Output/Outcome
Identification of native and important exotic host species susceptibility to Myrtle Rust, including variability within species	An understanding of the level of susceptibility of New Zealand <i>Myrtaceae</i> species and cultivars to the pathogen <i>Austropuccinia psidii</i> is essential, so that response or management options to address the ecological consequences of Myrtle Rust in New Zealand at local and landscape levels can be developed	Ministry for Primary Industries	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	2019	<a href="#">Smith G, Chagné D, Ganley B, Pathirana R, Ryan J, Arnst E, Sutherland R, Soewarto J, Houlston G, March A, Koot E, Carnegie A, Shuey L, Pegg G. 2019. Topic 1.1 — Identification of native and important exotic host species susceptibility to Myrtle Rust, including variability within species. <i>Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2019/33</i></a>
Implications for selected indigenous fauna of Tiritiri Matangi of the establishment of <i>Austropuccinia psidii</i> (G. Winter) Beenken (myrtle rust) in northern New Zealand	The aim of this review is to consider the potential longer-term impact of myrtle rust, with a focus on the flow-on effect to indigenous New Zealand fauna, particularly the nectarivorous species that use myrtaceous flowers as a food source.	Unitec Institute of Technology	Unitec Institute of Technology	Complete	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	2017	<a href="#">Galbraith M and Large M. 2017. Implications for selected indigenous fauna of Tiritiri Matangi of the establishment of <i>Austropuccinia psidii</i> (G. Winter) Beenken (myrtle rust) in northern New Zealand. <i>Perspectives in Biosecurity</i>, 2, 6–26.</a>
Myrtle Rust Biology	<p>This focus reflects an urgent need for tools to enable agencies and communities to collaborate to determine the presence or absence of kauri dieback and myrtle rust, and to establish ecological baselines for monitoring the long-term ecosystem effects of these two plant pathogens in a 'proof of freedom' framework. Determining presence or absence of infection is an essential building block to inform management for plant pathogens strategies and for protection of uninfected forests.</p> <p>Data will continue to be collected through the "Myrtle Rust Season" which runs from spring (November) to autumn (May). Priority work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring impact of myrtle rust in native forest on native species, especially highly vulnerable <i>Lophomyrtus</i> spp.;</li> <li>Measuring leaf flush in native Myrtaceae;</li> <li>Field host susceptibility/resistance testing;</li> <li>Investigating the reproduction rate of infected and non-infected trees.</li> </ul>	BioHeritage National Science Challenge – Ngā Rākau Taketake	Plant and Food Research	Current	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	N/A	Updates to be provided via the <a href="#">BioHeritage website</a>

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Title	Description	Funded by	Lead organisation	Status	Myrtle Rust SSAG Theme	Year completed	Output/Outcome
Myrtle Rust: a significant threat to Australasia and the Pacific.  Catalyst Project C11x1607	In consultation with a range of end-users, but especially the Ministry of Primary Industries and the Department of Conservation, this research will undertake research on key New Zealand plant species to: - establish their susceptibility to myrtle rust; - improve knowledge for effective seed (germplasm) storage systems; and - develop rapid in situ plant pathogen detection/surveillance systems (pandemic and Uruguay strains).  Project involved seed collection and screening myrtle rust host species for resistance (screening done in South Africa).	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment – Catalyst Fund	Plant and Food Research	Current	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	N/A	To be completed in 2020.  This project will establish an Australasian research nexus via an enduring collaboration between Plant Health Australia (PHA) and NZ's Better Border Biosecurity (B3) to co-ordinate immediate and future research to deliver outcomes to communities affected by diseases of Myrtaceae. The project collaborators (PFR, Scion, NSW DPI, QDAF) are working with NZ and Australia government agencies (e.g., MPI, DWAR, industry biosecurity entities (e.g., GIA), iwi, and aboriginal communities (e.g., Te Tira Whakamātaki) to address the increasing threats from myrtle rust, <i>Ceratocystis</i> and <i>Xylella</i> .
Myrtle rust resistance screening  (Subcontract for Catalyst project C11x1607)	Project involved seed collection and screening myrtle rust host species for resistance (screening done in South Africa).	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment – Catalyst Project	Scion	Current	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	N/A	Refer to detail above.
Myrtle Rust: a significant threat to Australasia and the Pacific.  (Subcontract for Catalyst project C11x1607)	Contribute to field collections of Myrtaceae seed for screening susceptibility to myrtle rust	Ministry for Primary Industries	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	2019	Info from Plant and Food research (4/11/19) Understanding the pathogen, hosts, and environmental influences: Better foundational knowledge for the development of management tools and approaches. This will include the following outcome: i) Identification of host species susceptibility to myrtle rust, including variability within species.  Seed collected from field locations (including specific plants identified in previous project "Building resilience and provenance into an authentic Māori honey industry") and sent to PFR Palmerston North for processing prior to shipment to QDAF to screen for myrtle rust resistance.



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Title	Description	Funded by	Lead organisation	Status	Myrtle Rust SSAG Theme	Year completed	Output/Outcome
The Current and Future Potential Distribution of Guava Rust, <i>Puccinia psidii</i> in New Zealand	The objective of this study was to assess the potential for <i>Puccinia psidii</i> (guava rust, eucalypt rust) to establish and persist in New Zealand under current and future climate scenarios.	Ministry for Primary Industries / Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment - FRST	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	Complete	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	2008	<p><a href="#">Kriticos DJ, Leriche A. 2008. The Current and Future Potential Distribution of Guava Rust, <i>Puccinia psidii</i> in New Zealand. MAF Biosecurity Technical Paper No: 2009/28.</a></p> <p>The major results of the study were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under current climate conditions, <i>Puccinia psidii</i> appears to be capable of establishing and persisting in all of the mid-to low-altitude areas of the North Island, and a substantial part of the more agriculturally productive areas of the South Island of New Zealand. The degree of climate suitability on the North Island appears very high.</li> <li>Climate change will exacerbate these risks, substantially increasing the climatic suitability of New Zealand for <i>P. psidii</i>.</li> <li>The rapid rate at which <i>P. psidii</i> invaded the State of Hawai'i suggests that it could spread rapidly throughout the Pacific islands, eventually reaching New Zealand.</li> </ol>
Predicting Myrtle Rust distribution in New Zealand through climate matching	Using the CLIMEX modelling package and based on an MPI report authored by Kriticos & Leriche (2008), a finer scale map was created predicting climate suitability for myrtle rust in New Zealand upon the first detection of the disease on the mainland.	Ministry for Primary Industries	AgResearch	Complete	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	2017	J Kean unpublished. 2017. High resolution climate suitability maps for myrtle rust in New Zealand using the CLIMEX model documented by Kriticos & Leriche (2008). This was used by the Ministry of Primary Industries during the initial incursion response.
Predicting Myrtle Rust distribution in New Zealand through climate matching	Three different modelling approaches (CLIMEX, MaxEnt and Multi-Model Framework) were used to project the habitat suitability for myrtle rust at both global and local scales. The model outputs were combined into a consensus model to identify localities projected to be suitable for myrtle rust according to two or three models (hotspots), and model outputs were validated by recent New Zealand reports of myrtle rust.	Bio-Protection Research Centre Better Border Biosecurity	Lincoln University (Bio-Protection Research Centre)	Complete	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	2019	<p><a href="#">Narouei-Khadan HA, Worner SP, Viljanen ALH, van Bruggen AHC, Jones EE. 2020. Projecting the suitability of global and local habitats for myrtle rust (<i>Austropuccinia psidii</i>) using model consensus. <i>Plant Pathology</i> 69, 17-27</a></p> <p>The results confirmed the optimum temperature range of this pathogen in the literature (15–25°C). Additional analysis of the precipitation variables indicated that excessive rain (more than 2000 mm in warmest quarter of the year) combined with high temperatures (&gt;30°C) constrain pathogen establishment.</p> <p>Narouei-Khadan, HA, 2014. Ensemble models to assess the risk of exotic plant pathogens in a changing climate. PhD Thesis, Lincoln University.</p>
Strain Identification	Myrtle Rust strain characterisation	Ministry for Primary Industries	University of Pretoria	Complete	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	2017	<a href="#">du Plessis E., Granados GM, Barnes I, Ho WH, Alexander BJR, Roux J, McTaggart AR. 2019. The pandemic strain of <i>Austropuccinia psidii</i> causes myrtle rust in New Zealand and Singapore. <i>Australasian Plant Pathology</i> 48:253–256</a>
Transmission risk via bees/beehives	To assess the movement of myrtle rust spores into, within and out from beehives, and to determine whether the spores remain viable through this process	Ministry for Primary Industries	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Epidemiology, ecosystems and resilience	2018	<a href="#">Pattimore D, Bateson M, Buxton M, Pegg G, Hauxwell C. 2018. Assessment of the risks of transmission of myrtle rust (<i>Austropuccinia psidii</i>) spores by honey bees (<i>Apis mellifera</i>). A Plant &amp; Food Research report prepared for: Ministry for Primary Industries. Milestone No. 74580. Contract No. 18638. Job code: P/414069/01. SPTS No. 16355</a>

# Myrtle Rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) Science Stocktake

Title	Description	Funded by	Lead organisation	Status	Myrtle Rust SSAG Theme	Year completed	Output/Outcome
Beyond Myrtle Rust: next generation tools to 'engineer' forest ecosystem resilience to plant pathogens  Research Area 1.4: Kaitiakitanga & Māori-Led Solutions	This programme aims to accelerate understanding of pathogen dynamics, improve predictions of complex pathogen impacts on ecosystem function, develop novel, socially acceptable mitigation technologies and enhance kaitiakitanga within myrtle rust affected landscapes.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A focus on strategies to facilitate Māori leadership in responses to <i>A psidii</i></li> <li>Develop a framework to assess impacts on Te Ao Māori and to prioritise management actions.</li> <li>Develop protocols that support Māori-led methods to boost ecosystem resilience</li> </ul>	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment	Manaaki Whenua	Current	Te Ao Maori and Mātauranga Maori	N/A	To be completed in 2023. For additional information please go to the <a href="#">Beyond Myrtle Rust website</a> .
Building a Mātauranga Māori-based surveillance framework for plant pathogens.	Key focus for this work is the development of a surveillance framework, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-design to Mātauranga-based with Mātauranga knowledge holders</li> <li>Co-design with key agencies (eg. DOC, MPI)</li> <li>Consideration of data streams from emerging detection and diagnostic tools</li> <li>Integration of data from a range of sources including citizen science/community</li> <li>Mapping of diseased and disease-free areas appropriate to guide disease management at national and local scales</li> </ul>	BioHeritage National Science Challenge - Ngā Rākau Taketake	Manaaki Whenua	Current	Te Ao Maori and Mātauranga Maori	N/A	Updates to be provided via the <a href="#">BioHeritage website</a> .
Cultural Licence to Operate Pre-Border Biological Control Tools in Aotearoa.	Success in this project would be the development and implementation of Māori biosecurity response plans which include mātauranga Māori in MPI's biosecurity procedures; and an understanding of the cultural impacts of the biosecurity tools being proposed or used in the response to Myrtle Rust. This project will contribute to achieving meaningful Māori engagement in the biosecurity space, specifically pre-and-post border risk assessment and tool development.	Better Border Biosecurity	Plant and Food Research	Current	Te Ao Maori and Mātauranga Maori	2019	A paper is currently in preparation: SPTS #18315 - Mātauranga Māori - Myrtle Rust Response: A Case Study
Engagement hui - PFR Māori summer students' hui	The Summer Student hui was an internally (PFR) funded event exposing our 2015 intake of Māori summer students to representatives from Māori organisation like Federation of Māori Affairs, Te Ohu Kaimoana and Te Tumu Paeroa. Also in attendance were representatives from Core Government organisations like MBIE, MPI TPK, and MfE. (Wellington, 24 March 2015);	Plant and Food Research	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Te Ao Maori and Mātauranga Maori	2015	The success of the event can be attributed to the response by attendees to the work undertaken by the students and the interest expressed in the SS programme. It was also good exposure for the students to the "Wellington community".

# Myrtle Rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) Science Stocktake

Title	Description	Funded by	Lead organisation	Status	Myrtle Rust SSAG Theme	Year completed	Output/Outcome
Maori / Pacifica students with focus on myrtle rust (summer students)	This part of the wider programme (RISK) assessing the impact of myrtle rust on NZ natives in Australia and Hawaii (sentinel plants).	Plant and Food Research	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Te Ao Maori and Mātauranga Maori	2015	<a href="#">Teulon DAJ, Alipia TT, Ropata HT, Green JM, Viljanen-Rollinson SLH, Cromey MG, Arthur K, MacDiarmid RM, Waipara MW, Marsh AT. 2015. The threat of myrtle rust to Māori taonga plant species in New Zealand. <i>New Zealand Plant Protection</i> 68: 66–75.</a>
Māori solutions to biosecurity threats and incursions to taonga species	Key elements include investigating impacts of MR on NZ native plants in South Africa and building knowledge around preparedness and surveillance particularly among Māori communities. It is Māori-led and therefore has a strong mātauranga Māori focus.	BioHeritage National Science Challenge	Plant and Food Research	Pending final documentation	Te Ao Maori and Mātauranga Maori	2019	<a href="#">Black A, Mark-Shadbolt M, Garner G, Green J, Malcom T, Marsh A, Ropata H, Waipara NW, Wood W. 2018. How an Indigenous community responded to the incursion and spread of myrtle rust (<i>Austropuccinia psidii</i>) that threatens culturally significant plant species - a case study from New Zealand. <i>Pacific Conservation Biology</i> 25, 348-354</a>  <a href="#">Lambert S., Waipara N., Black A., Mark-Shadbolt M., Wood W. 2018. Indigenous Biosecurity: Māori Responses to Kauri Dieback and Myrtle Rust in Aotearoa New Zealand. In: Urquhart J., Marzano M., Potter C. (eds) <i>The Human Dimensions of Forest and Tree Health</i>. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham pp 109-137</a>
Te Ao Maori	Myrtle rust ( <i>Austropuccinia psidii</i> ) research to address critical knowledge gaps in cultural, social and scientific knowledge relating to the management of myrtle rust in New Zealand (MPI Project 18607). A Te Ao Māori research theme was prioritised to engage Māori within the research, and then to provide an understanding of the cultural impacts and mātauranga (knowledge) that could help inform the current and future management of myrtle rust in New Zealand.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Te Ao Maori and Mātauranga Maori	2019	<a href="#">Marsh A, Wood W, Ropata H, Waipara N, McGreal B, Mark-Shadbolt M, Malcolm T, van Schravendijk-Goodman C, Campbell R, Bullians M. 2019. Myrtle rust — Te Ao Māori Theme 2. <i>Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2019/41</i></a>
Te mauri o te rakau, te mauri o te ngahere, te mauri o te tangata	Key focus for this work is developing a forward-looking research plan for targeted surge investment areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saving Kauri - Incorporate cultural dimensions of forest health and mātauranga Māori into forest protection and restoration</li> <li>• Protecting taonga Myrtaceae - Incorporate mātauranga Māori into protection and maintaining resilience of taonga Myrtaceae</li> </ul> Research plan will consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of rongoā and Māori-led solutions, such as those developed in Biological Heritage VM projects 1.1 and 2.4, and those led by kaitiaki, hapū, mana whenua, iwi, Māori etc. on the ground.</li> <li>• How we address the critical gaps in mātauranga Māori-led approaches to plant pathogens?</li> <li>• How we enable hapū/whānau-based projects across the country to lead progress towards the goals of saving kauri and protecting taonga Myrtaceae?</li> </ul>	BioHeritage National Science Challenge - Ngā Rākau Taketake	Te Tira Whakamātaki	Current	Te Ao Maori and Mātauranga Maori	N/A	Updates to be provided via the <a href="#">BioHeritage website</a>

# Myrtle Rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) Science Stocktake

Title	Description	Funded by	Lead organisation	Status	Myrtle Rust SSAG Theme	Year completed	Output/Outcome
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defining 'resilience' for Māori in relation to forest health and its connections to tangata/iwi/hapū health</li> <li>Defining the needs and identifying areas for further work in the germplasm and seed banking space for NRT.</li> <li>Finalising tikanga-based protocols for myrtle rust seed protection with existing partners MPI and DOC.</li> </ul>						
Engagement hui	<p>The purpose of the hui was to improve knowledge and understanding by iwi/Māori of the potential biosecurity risks posed by new and invasive species like Fruit fly and Myrtle rust.</p> <p>Te Manukanuka o Hoturua Marae (Auckland Airport Marae). 7 August 2015.</p>	Better Border Biosecurity	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Te Ao Maori and Mātauranga Maori	2015	The purpose of the hui was to improve knowledge and understanding by iwi/Māori of the potential biosecurity risks posed by new and invasive species like Fruit fly and Myrtle rust. Topical at the time were pests like Queensland fruit fly and the tomato potato psyllid, with the looming threat of diseases like Myrtle rust among others. One of the key messages was the need to improve engagement with indigenous communities in New Zealand and across Australia and the Pacific. One guest speaker, Ruth Wallace from Charles Darwin University in Darwin, spoke about the engagement model developed in partnership with PFR and how that will improve how government, especially in Australia, engages with the indigenous communities across Australia.
Building engagement and social licence through better understanding of public acceptance of potential long-term management options.	A review of existing knowledge through an update of international literature and recent experience on incursion response. Development of engagement tools (rubrics) and how to identify relevant motivated networks. Interviews with impacted groups and networks. Links with Te Ao Māori work led by PFR.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Scion	Complete	Sociological complexity and socioeconomic consequences	2019	<p><a href="#">Allen W, Grant A, Stronge D, Wegner S. 2019 Building engagement and social licence: Unpacking Social Licence to Operate and partnerships – developing rubrics for guidance and assessment. <i>Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2019/17</i></a></p> <p><a href="#">Grant A, Stronge D, Allen W, Wegner S. 2019. Building engagement and social licence: Research overview and recommendations. <i>Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2019/18</i></a></p> <p><a href="#">Grant A, Wegner S, Allen W. 2019. Building engagement and social licence: Understanding motivated networks. <i>Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2019/16</i></a></p> <p><a href="#">Bayne K, Grant A, Soliman T, Wegner S, Allen W. 2019. Building engagement and social licence: Survey of individuals impacted by myrtle rust. <i>Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2019/14 (Topic 1.0-3)</i></a></p> <p><a href="#">Stronge D, Allen W, Wegner S, Grant A. 2019. 2017 myrtle rust biosecurity response: A Taranaki case study. <i>Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2019/15 (Topic 1.0-4)</i></a></p>

# Myrtle Rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) Science Stocktake

Title	Description	Funded by	Lead organisation	Status	Myrtle Rust SSAG Theme	Year completed	Output/Outcome
Develop monitoring approaches (including establishing baselines) for assessing impacts of myrtle rust to environmental, economic, social and cultural values over time, and for understanding the impact of management interventions	To evaluate the consequences of myrtle rust, New Zealand requires robust indicators for environmental, economic and socio-cultural systems. This project will build a step-wise framework to identify indicators that can be implemented as data become available.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Scion	Complete	Sociological complexity and socioeconomic consequences	2019	<a href="#">Velarde SJ, Grant A, Bellingham PJ, Richardson SJ, Wegner S, Soliman T. 2019. MPI 18607 Project Report. Evaluating impacts of and responses to myrtle rust in New Zealand. Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No.: 2019/32</a>
Economic Impact Assessment	Comprehensive assessment of the potential economic impacts of myrtle rust to all sectors on mainland NZ. Work supports and informs future decision-making and cost-benefit analyses.	Ministry for Primary Industries	NZ Institute of Economic Research	Complete	Sociological complexity and socioeconomic consequences	2017	<a href="#">Ballingall J, Pambudi D. 2017. Economic impacts of Myrtle rust: A dynamic computable general equilibrium assessment. NZIER final report to Ministry for Primary Industries.</a>
Non-market valuation of biodiversity impacts	Choice modelling of the NZ public to determine the social value of biodiversity impacts from myrtle rust. Impacts of biodiversity loss and impacts to landscapes and ecosystems for New Zealanders under low, medium and high impact scenarios.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Lincoln University - Agribusiness and Economics Research unit	Complete	Sociological complexity and socioeconomic consequences	2017	<a href="#">Tait P and Rutherford P. 2017. Non-market economic valuation of myrtle rust management benefits for New Zealand residents. MPI Technical Paper 2017/59.</a> Also published by <a href="#">Lincoln University</a>
Beyond Myrtle Rust: next generation tools to 'engineer' forest ecosystem resilience to plant pathogens  Research Area 1.3: Novel Mitigation Technologies	This programme aims to accelerate understanding of pathogen dynamics, improve predictions of complex pathogen impacts on ecosystem function, develop novel, socially acceptable mitigation technologies and enhance kaitiakitanga within MR affected landscapes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine the genetic basis of host resistance using mānuka (<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>) as a case study</li> <li>Select pathogen resistant genetic lines of mānuka</li> <li>Search for biological control agents among Myrtaceae microbiome members, and investigate their mechanisms</li> <li>Search Māori rongoā solutions with biocontrol capabilities</li> </ul>	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment	Manaaki Whenua	Current	Species conservation, disease control and management	N/A	To be completed in 2023. For additional updates and information please go to the <a href="#">Beyond Myrtle Rust website</a> .

# Myrtle Rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) Science Stocktake

Title	Description	Funded by	Lead organisation	Status	Myrtle Rust SSAG Theme	Year completed	Output/Outcome
Building resilience and provenance into an authentic Māori honey industry.	This research is focused on supporting the honey industry to increase production of native honeys and improve their value, as well as more sustainably manage the honey resource. It is not directly addressing myrtle rust eradication or management, but aspects have potential to support understanding of how to manage the consequences of myrtle rust, particularly with respect to the resilience of current manuka honey industry.  Manuka genetics subcontract: Plant and Food Research in collaboration with Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research and Māori partners are studying the genetic diversity of mānuka using state of the art whole genome sequencing technologies.	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment - Endeavour Fund	Manaaki Whenua	Current	Species conservation, disease control and management	N/A	To be completed in 2021. We will have mapped the genomes of 70+ populations of manuka from across New Zealand, and the same plants have been used in resistance screening via the PFR led Catalyst and MPI funded work. This will be an ongoing resource for understanding manuka resistance, populations management and germplasm conservation.  Manuka genetics subcontract to be completed by 30/06/2020. Overall programme to be completed in 2021.
Cryopreservation - developing in-vitro conservation protocols	Some species of myrtles cannot have seed stored in an orthodox way (e.g. swamp maire) or don't produce much viable seed (e.g. Bartlett's rata). We need to explore whether seeds or other tissues can be stored using cryopreservation methods and then be propagated. This will assist with the urgent need to establish our insurance policy against loss of biodiversity.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Plant and Food Research	Current	Species conservation, disease control and management	N/A	<a href="#">Nadarajan J, van der Walt K, Pathirana R. (2019). Assessing cryopreservation potential for recalcitrant Myrtaceae germplasm.</a>
Desktop review of potential disease control tools	Desktop literature review of potential disease control tools which could be effective against Myrtle Rust. This is a literature review based on published papers, with recommendations for potential work/options.	Better Border Biosecurity	Scion	Complete	Species conservation, disease control and management	2019	<a href="#">Chng S, Soewarto J, Adusei-Fosu K, Rolando C, Ganley R, Padamsee M, Waipara W, Grant A, Wegner S, Gee M. 2019. Potential disease control tools most likely to be effective against <i>Austropuccinia psidii</i>. <i>Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No.: 2019/27</i></a>
Eradication data base	Data on rust is a small part of this project covering attempts and outcomes of plant pathogen eradications including rusts.	Better Border Biosecurity	Better Border Biosecurity	Complete	Species conservation, disease control and management	2017	<a href="#">Smith GR, Fletcher JD, Marroni V, Kean JM, Stringer LD, Vereijssen J. 2017. Plant pathogen eradication: determinants of successful programs. <i>Australasian Plant Pathology</i> 46(3):277-284</a>

# Myrtle Rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) Science Stocktake

Title	Description	Funded by	Lead organisation	Status	Myrtle Rust SSAG Theme	Year completed	Output/Outcome
Fungicide trials associated with Myrtle Rust control in New Zealand	Myrtle rust is a fungal disease of members of the Myrtaceae plant family. It was detected in New South Wales in 2010 and in New Zealand in 2017. This study investigated the role of different fungicides and different timings of application relative to a single inoculation time for protectant and curative activity against myrtle rust. Of the chemical options investigated Amistar Xtra, Scorpio and Bayfidan were generally the best options for protection and control of myrtle rust infection in one variety of <i>Metrosideros</i> and one variety of <i>Lophomyrtus</i> . Future work should consider how to improve the coverage of plant canopies and stems for better chemical control of myrtle rust.	Ministry for Primary Industries	NSW Department of Primary Industries	Complete	Species conservation, disease control and management	2018	<a href="#">Cuddy WS, Carnegie A. 2018. Fungicide Trials Associated with Myrtle Rust Control in New Zealand. Final Report for NZ MPI</a>
Initial identification of genetic markers linked to resistance	Eucalyptus trees with resistance to the <i>A. psidii</i> strains present in Brazil have been developed using breeding and molecular systems since the 1970s and are grown commercially. Genetic loci associated with resistance have been identified in <i>E. grandis</i> in Brazil and in other Eucalypt species in Australia.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Species conservation, disease control and management	2019	<a href="#">Chagné D, Buck E, Koot E, Silvester N, Dungey H, Freeman J, Telfer E. 2019. Topic 1.4 — Initial identification of genetic markers linked to resistance. Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2019/36</a>
Myrtle Rust Chemical Control Literature review	Literature review of current chemical control tools and fungicides in context of Myrtle Rust and Myrtaceae.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Scion	Complete	Species conservation, disease control and management	2019	<a href="#">Adusei-Fosu K, Rolando CA. 2019. Chemical control - review of control methods and fungicides. Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No.: 2019/24</a>
Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme	To scope and develop a comprehensive plant production biosecurity scheme which informs plant producer certification across the plant production industry. This will minimise biosecurity risk and harness the critical skills and observations that exist in the industry to protect and grow New Zealand.	Ministry for Primary Industries	NZ Plant Producers Inc.	Complete	Species conservation, disease control and management	2018	Plant Production Biosecurity Scheme documentation including a Myrtle Rust Module and related Research Stocktake can be found on the NZPPI website <a href="#">HERE</a> .  The pilot draft documents of the above project were field tested throughout 2019, and post pilot documentation will be released in early 2020 and the programme rolled out to all nurseries.
Pilot trials for control of myrtle rust using fungicides	Pilot study to trial efficacy of selected fungicides and adjuvants (Glasshouse studies). Project included development of inoculation methods.  Small-scale testing of fungicidal treatments on New Zealand native trees and ecosystems to assess any off-target risks. This will help us decide if it is worth taking the risk to prophylactically treat important shrubs or trees (e.g. on DOC land) or whether different fungicides should be used for specific tree/shrub species.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Scion	Complete	Species conservation, disease control and management	2019	<a href="#">Adusei-Fosu K, Rolando CA. 2019. Pilot trials for control of myrtle rust using fungicides. Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No.: 2019/25</a>

# Myrtle Rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) Science Stocktake

Title	Description	Funded by	Lead organisation	Status	Myrtle Rust SSAG Theme	Year completed	Output/Outcome
Resistant plants and potential relationship with endophyte populations	The impact of endophytes of myrtaceous species on infection and epidemiology of <i>A. psidii</i> is unknown. Preliminary work on Mānuka substantiates a functional role for endophytes in growth, chemistry and plant protection: the latter aspect will be investigated as a contributor to Myrtle Rust resistance.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Species conservation, disease control and management	2019	<a href="#">Ridgeway H, Ganley B, Nieto-Jacobo F, Chng S, Soewarto J. 2019. MPI 18608 Project Report Topic 1.5 — Relationship with endophyte populations. Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2019/37</a>
Scoping a resistance breeding programme: strategy pathways for implementation	The objective of this project was to develop a breeding framework to facilitate long-term maintenance of healthy populations of Myrtaceous species in New Zealand. Myrtle rust has the potential to cause significant impacts upon native and introduced Myrtaceae species in New Zealand, including native species extinctions and broader environmental impacts. Breeding approaches, including germplasm conservation, genetic improvement for enhanced resistance, and reforestation with genetically improved material in severely impacted taxa, have clear potential to reduce the impacts of the disease (Sniezko and Koch 2017). However, myrtle rust will have variable impact across the c. 200 native and exotic Myrtaceae species in New Zealand, and different species will be a higher priority than others for action, so it will be important to formulate appropriate breeding responses on a case-by-case basis.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Scion	Complete	Species conservation, disease control and management	2019	<a href="#">Freeman J, Bus V, Klapste J, Jesson L, Dungey H. 2019. MPI 18608 Project Report Scoping a resistance breeding programme: Strategy pathways for implementation (3.5-3). Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2019/28</a>
Seed banking and germplasm research strategy	Within 7 years, myrtle rust has caused the localised extinction of some <i>Myrtaceae</i> species in Australia. Wider scale species extinction is a distinct possibility as the pathogen continues to spread. Conservation of species and ensuring future access to genetic variation via storage of seed or germplasm (e.g. tissue culture) is a key component of long-term management response to the threat posed by this pathogen to NZ's unique <i>Myrtaceae</i> species.	Ministry for Primary Industries	Plant and Food Research	Complete	Species conservation, disease control and management	2019	<a href="#">Nadarajan J, van der Walt K, Pathirana R. 2019. MPI 18608 Project Report Topic 3.1 - Seed banking and germ plasm research strategy. Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper No: 2019/38</a>  Nadarajan J, van der Walt K, Pathirana R. (in prep) Integrated ex situ conservation strategies for endangered New Zealand Myrtaceae species.
Seed collection for long-term conservation of species and populations at risk from myrtle rust impacts	The aim of the seed collection is for it to act as an insurance policy against regional or national extinctions of native Myrtaceae. Seed collections have been coordinated through a seed collection framework developed as part of the DOC germplasm strategy for native Myrtaceae, and in response to myrtle rust.	Department of Conservation	Department of Conservation	Current	Species conservation, disease control and management	N/A	This project is being undertaken in partnership with the Ministry for Primary Industries and <a href="#">NZ Indigenous Flora Seed Bank</a> (Massey University).