

arachidis) could have been repeated. An illegal introduction on vegetative material is not impossible, but is considered to be very highly unlikely. The introduction of spores on clothing is another possibility.

Whatever the origin, the new rust seems to have arrived in north Queensland in early to mid-1978, and certainly no earlier than late 1977. (This seems to be when it arrived in the Caribbean also). The former period corresponds with the 1978 north-west monsoonal inflow. Spread of rust from a very few foci of infection was rapid in the area from Mossman to Tully in late 1978. By late December 1978, a very light rust infection was located in the Herbert River district, centred on Ingham. This is about 50 km from the nearest cane in Tully, and is separated from that by high mountains, forests and grazing lands.

By April, 1979, the disease was located in the Burdekin, Isis, Maryborough, Nambour and Rocky Point districts, and it is expected that it will eventually be carried to the southern-most cane-growing areas in New South Wales.

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The identity of the fungus was confirmed by Dr. J. E. Mordue, Commonwealth Mycological Institute, London.

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A new record of *Monilinia fructicola* on flowering quince at Stanthorpe, Queensland

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The brown rot disease of stone fruits recorded in Queensland is caused by *Monilinia fructicola* (Wint.) Rehm (4). *M. laxa* Aderh. and Ruhl., which also causes brown rot, blossom blight and a severe twig dieback, especially on flowering quince (*Chaenomeles* spp.), has not been found here as it has in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania (3).

During annual surveys conducted at Stanthorpe between 1970 and 1977, blossom blight (*M. fructicola*) was recorded on commercial stone fruits and on flowering peaches. However the disease was not detected on flowering quince, *C. japonica* (Thunb.) Lindl., the species commonly grown here. In the 1978 survey, blossom blight due to a *Monilia* sp. was found on flowering quince in three gardens within a circle of two kilometres radius in the town of Stanthorpe.

After cultural studies and pathogenicity tests, isolates from blossoms were assigned to *M. fructicola* using the criteria of Jenkins (1) and Penrose et al. (2). This identification was confirmed by Dr. J. E. M. Mordue of the C.M.I. (IMI 234927, 234928, 234929).

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OBITUARY

Dr. P. H. B. Talbot

Pat Talbot was one of Australia's leading fungal taxonomists. His particular interests were the basidiomycetes especially the Aphylllophorales and he will long be remembered for his work on the taxonomy and nomenclature of the perfect states of *Rhizoctonia*. He was no narrow specialist however, his book "The Principles of Fungal Taxonomy" received international acclaim. He published some forty scientific papers that earned him world-wide recognition as a fungal taxonomist. His continuing interest in the poisonous fungi probably stemmed from the bulletin he wrote with Miss A. M. Bottomley on common edible and poisonous mushrooms of South Africa. Such interests often elicited enquiries, even from the police department who were concerned more with the forensic side of fungi. He always treated these and other enquiries with his usual diligence and humour.

He was a gentle, percipient and above all a scholarly colleague. Any questions of a classical nature such as the derivation of a word or the right turn of phrase were always referred to him. His work on the taxonomy of fungi involved a study of the minutiae of morphological variation and yet he could still appreciate the beauty of the whole organism. His wood carvings give evidence of his artistic nature, his taxonomic drawings indicate his technical skills. But the characteristic for which he will be most remembered was his selfless consideration for others.

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