Pests and diseases of chestnut trees

Chestnut blight

A disease caused by a fungus (*Cryphonectria parasitica*) that grows underneath the bark, causing cankers that eventually kill the tree.

Symptoms: Cracking or discolouration of bark and small orange stroma on the bark.

Chestnut rot

A disease caused by a fungus (*Gnomoniopsis smithogilvyi*) that affects chestnuts mainly after harvest; rotting them from the inside out.

Symptoms: Discoloured areas beneath the shell of the nut.

Shuttleworth, Liew & Guest 2012

Gypsy moths

EXOTIC

Large moths (*Lymantria dispar* and *Lymantria mathura*) that lay eggs on trees, where the larvae (inset) feed on leaves, often leading to complete defoliation.

Symptoms: Yellow egg masses (arrowed) and evidence of leaves being eaten.

K. Salp, WSDA, Bugwood.org
Inset: USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

Texas root rot

EXOTIC

A disease caused by a fungus (*Phymatotrichopsis omnivora*) that prevents roots from taking in water, quickly causing the plant to wilt and die.

Symptoms: Areas of dead plants (often in a circular pattern) with white to beige fungal strands covering the roots and spore mats (inset) on the ground.

S.D. Lyda, Bugwood.org
Inset: N.P. Goldberg 2005, NMSU
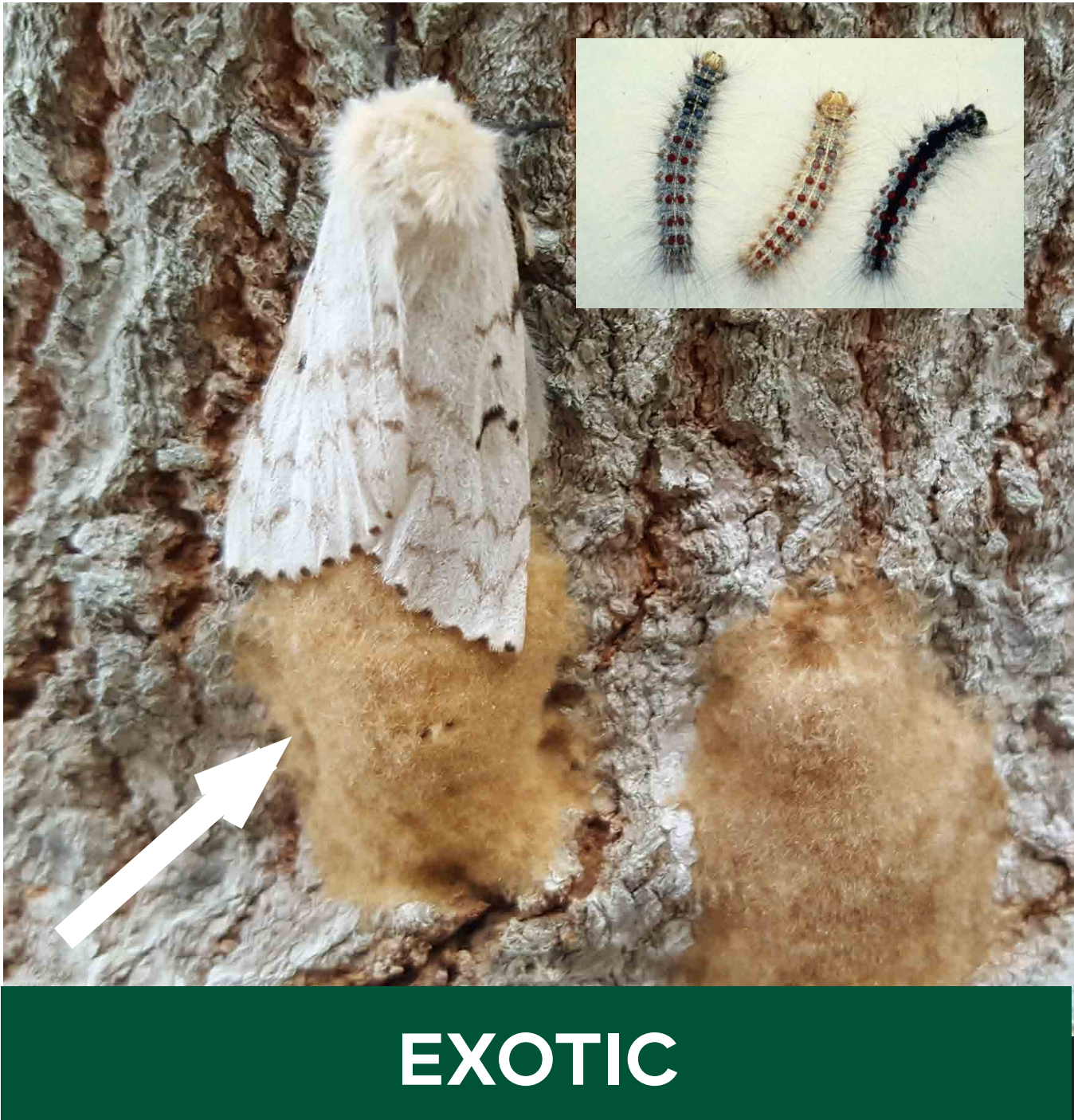
Sudden oak death

EXOTIC

A disease caused by a water mould (*Phytophthora ramorum*) that impacts leaves, stems and the trunk, causing tree death.

Symptoms: Irregular, dead lesions on leaves (inset) and "bleeding" (dark, thick sap - arrowed) from cankers on the trunk.

J. O'Brien, USFS, Bugwood.org

Oriental chestnut gall wasp

EXOTIC

Small, black wasps (*Dryocosmus kuriphilus*, inset) that lay eggs in chestnut tree buds. This prevents nut growth and can kill entire trees.

Symptoms: Green to pink coloured galls (swollen growths up to 2 centimetres in diameter) in the tree buds.

J. Payne, USDA ARS, Bugwood.org

In Victoria, report chestnut blight to **ibo@chestnutsaustralia.com.au**.
Report all other plant pests or diseases to the **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881**.

CHESTNUTS AUSTRALIA INC.

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA