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<http://www.apsnet.org/meetings/abstracts.asp>

Rizzo, D.M. 2008. *Phytophthora ramorum*: A recent discovery with a large impact. *Phytopathology* 98:S197.

Phytophthora ramorum first came to attention of the plant pathology community as the causal agent of sudden oak death (SOD). Since 1994, potentially millions of tanoak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*) and oak (*Quercus* spp.) have been killed by this pathogen in coastal forest of California and Oregon. *P. ramorum* is a generalist and has a host range of well over 100 species ranging from ferns to conifers to herbaceous plants and shrubs. On these hosts, *P. ramorum* causes a variety of foliar and branch symptoms. Since its association with SOD in 2000, much research has been conducted on the biology, genetics (including the sequencing of its genome), epidemiology, host-pathogen interactions and ecological impacts of *P. ramorum*. This talk will put *P. ramorum* research and management into historical context through examination of past research on other forest *Phytophthoras* and subsequent impacts of *P. ramorum* research on other *Phytophthoras*. Research on *P. cinnamomi*, *P. lateralis* and European Oak decline set the stage for early research on *P. ramorum* and set the stage for many discoveries concerning SOD. The potential importance of the nursery trade for long distance movement of *P. ramorum* has led to the implementation of national and international regulations and quarantines. This in turn resulted in numerous surveys and monitoring programs for the presence of *P. ramorum*. In the course of these surveys, many new *Phytophthoras* have been discovered in natural ecosystems and nursery settings.