

***Gymnosporangium* Rust on *Juniperus excelsa* L. in a Nursery and in Forests in South-western Turkey**

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Abstract – Juniper forests contribute to about 5.3% of the total forest area of Turkey. We investigated the frequency of *Gymnosporangium* infections on *Juniperus excelsa* both on seedlings in one nursery and on trees in six juniper forests located in southwestern Turkey. In the nursery, 0.7% of 5510 one-year-old seedlings and 29% of 200 two-year-old potted seedlings were infected. In each of the juniper forests fifty trees were chosen within a square of approximately four hundred square meters in size. Between the stands, the average height and diameter of the trees varied from 7 to 13.4 m and 20.5 to 50.1 cm, respectively. In general, rust infections were common on the trees. On average 49% of the trees were infected; on 18% of the trees the infections were located on the stem, on 43.3% on the branches, and on 12.3% on both. There were significant differences between the stands, which can be due to different age of the trees, site factors and the presence of alternate hosts.

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