

# A fungal symbiont of the redbay ambrosia beetle causes a lethal wilt in redbay and other Lauraceae in the southeastern United States

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Relative density of redbay in 2004 compared to other woody plant species sampled in 2007 across six 1-hectare stands (S1–S6) on St. Catherines Island, GA. Redbay were sampled in 2004 immediately following the first signs of laurel wilt on the island but before widespread genet mortality occurred. Subcanopy and large understory (3.0–29.9 cm dbh). Relative density %. Over 6 years (2003–2009), a clear transition between genet mortality states was observed as a result of laurel wilt—after 2 years there was full canopy death of live stems ( state 2 ) and after 4 years the majority of live stems died and genets were manifested as sprouts ( state 3 ). By the sixth year post-invasion, genet mortality occurred throughout the population.