

Occurrence of Ash Dieback in Slovakia since 2004

Investigation realized in the Centre of Excellence for Biological Control of Forest Pests situated in Banská Štiavnica

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First serious information on Ash dieback showed up in 2004 in Eastern Slovakia. Next year specialists from Forest Research Institute noticed more localities with similar symptoms. Following years new findings with symptoms of the disease were more often recorded. Those positive reports were also the result of good information on new disease coming from international scientific papers and passed by Forest Research Institute to foresters. Unfortunately, even after 6 years from the first official finding and publishing several papers in national forest papers and conferences many foresters in Slovakia still do not know what is going on with their Ash trees.

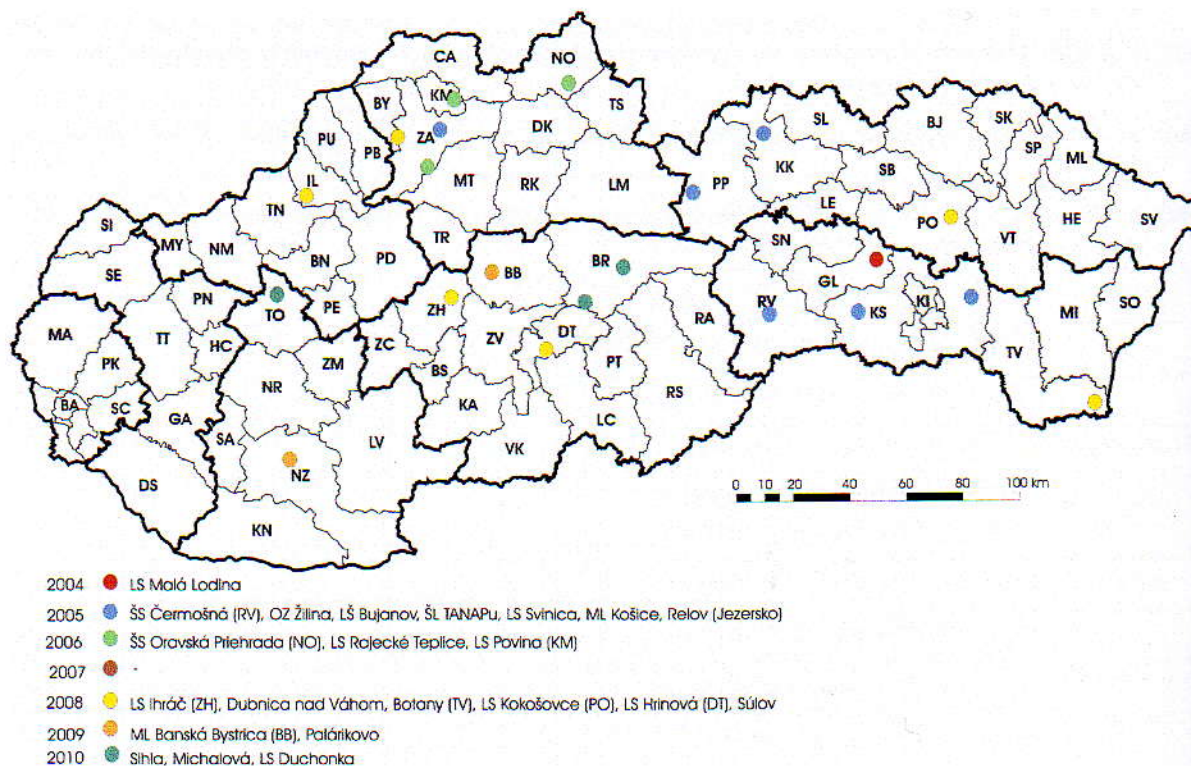


Figure 1: Development and Distribution of Ash Dieback in Slovakia since 2004

Now we can say that the disease is widespread throughout Slovakia. However, there are still some stands of various ages which show no symptoms. Even in diseased stands some trees are less damaged, some stay healthy.

Table 1: Short description of localities with Ash Dieback in Slovakia

Year	Locality	Comments
2004	ML Košice, LS Malá Lodina	20 – 30 y. old
2005	LŠ Bujanov	transplants up to 5 y.
2005	ŠS Čermošná (Rožňava)	transplants up to 5 y.
2005	OZ Žilina	
2005	ŠL TANAPu	
2005	OZ Košice, LS Svinica	
2005	Jezersko (Reľov)	app. 40 y. old
2006	ŠS Oravská Priehrada	transplants up to 5 y.
2006	OZ Žilina, LS Rajecké Teplice, lok. Podkolenová	50 y. old
2006	OZ Čadca, LS Povina	20 – 30 y. old
2008	OZ Prešov, LS Kokošovce	100 – 200 ha up to 30 y. old
2008	OZ Žarnovica, LS Ihráč	scattered
2008	Dubnica nad Váhom	
2008	LS Veľká Trňa, lok. Boťany	20 – 30 y. old
2008	OZ Kriváň, LS Hriňová	90 y. old trees
2009	ML Banská Bystrica	up to 20 y. old, game damage
2009	Palárikovo	
2010	Sihla	100 – 200 ha, mostly up to 50 y.
2010	Michalová	20 – 50 y. old
2010	LS Duchonka	up to 30 years old Ash

The main pest involved in Ash dieback is *Chalara fraxinea*. Besides, we have found in younger stands bark beetles *Leperisinus fraxini*, in older stands *Leperisinus crenatus*. Some dead or seriously damaged trees have *Armillaria* on roots and buttress.

Prognosis for stands with Ash dieback symptoms is bad. We suggest cutting trees with symptoms then firing or chipping them in situ. Although the disease is spread out we try to limit the movement of infected materials to smaller distances.

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