OSU MG Study Group Diagnostic Show-and-Tell Highlights: December 4, 2017

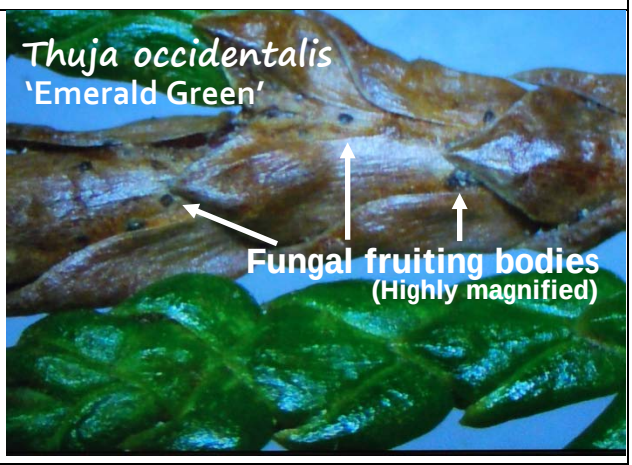
Prepared and photographed by Elizabeth Price

Join our friendly OSU MG Study Group on the first Monday of each month from 1 to 3 pm for Diagnostic Show-and-Tell. Have fun while learning! We explore bugs, diseases and more. Below are a few samples of what MGs brought to our last session. For more information contact Elizabeth Price: llgmicroeap@mindspring.com

Emerald Green arborvitae with fungal infection

We put the sample of this popular narrow hedge tree that Jane brought in under the microscope. After some searching, we found the black fruiting bodies of a fungus on both dead and dying tissue. A small percentage of the hedge is affected; Jane will prune out the affected areas and watch for spread of the disease.

For more information: *PNW Disease Handbook*



One or two Pacific yews?

Ginny brought in one sample that she knows is a Pacific yew—it develops the distinctive red arils of plants in the *Taxus* or yew genus. The question posed is whether a similar tree nearby is the same species. The foliage is right: yew leaves twist at the base before continuing along and pressing against the twig. We noticed what appeared to be male pollen cones developing in the leaf axils (Pacific yews are dioecious). Ginny will tag these features on the tree and see if they develop into pollen cones.

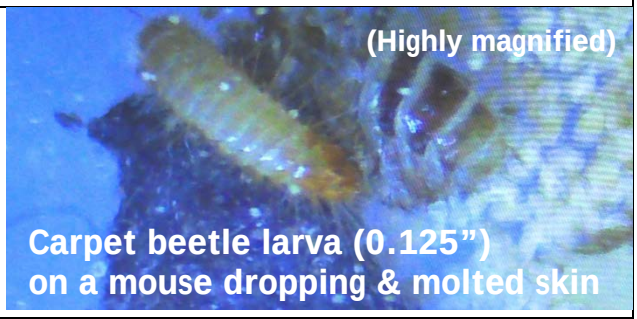
For more information: Northwest Conifers—Pacific yew

Ginny will watch to see if these structures develop into male pollen cones.

Carpet beetle larvae (and more)

Prepare to be disgusted by the sample Connie brought in from the Clackamas County clinic: carpet beetle larvae—among mouse poop—from a kitchen. Obviously the client needs to do a bit of cleaning up. This beetle's diet is not restricted to carpet; they feed on cereal, spices, dried skins, feathers, animal fur and more. Follow the link to read about their life cycle and management strategies.

For more information: University of California IPM



Pixie-cup lichen (*Cladonia* sp.): sweet little fairy garden

Jean rescued this lovely lichen colony from a rotting fence being torn down. Lichens are symbiotic organisms composed of two (and sometimes three) life forms: a fungus and a partner capable of photosynthesis. Most commonly that partner is green algae, such as with *Cladonia* sp., but sometimes it is cyanobacteria or both.

Cladonia lichens are known for having two distinct structures: the sessile scale-like lobes (a form called squamulous) and the erect pixie cups (podetia), which are the fruiting bodies.

For more information: Washington Native Plant Society