GUAM
With a landmass of 212 square miles, Guam is the largest island in the Western Pacific geographic region known as Micronesia. Guam has a tropical marine climate moderated by seasonal easterly trade winds. The mean high temperature is 86°F (30°C) and mean low is 76°F (24°C). It has an average annual rainfall of 96 inches (2,180 mm) of which 60% occurs during the wet season July through November. Published on February 2017.

IDENTIFICATION OF CONK
Subsequent research in 2012 determined the conks were primarily those of the pathogenic heart-rot fungus Ganoderma austrole species complex.

SYMPTOMATOLOGY
Symptom progression of IWTD begins with mild thinning of foliage with little or no internal discoloration progressing (right tree) to severe die-back of branches and extensive internal discoloration (left tree).

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION
In Guam, ironwood grows in low pH volcanic and bottomland soils and high pH limestone and beach soils. Ironwood thickets are a component of Guam’s forest surveys, where it is considered a secondary forest species. It grows nearly everywhere with the exception of undisturbed limestone forests.

Ironwood's ability to thrive anywhere in the world and constitutes some 3% of all trees planted in tropical areas. Ironwood’s ability to thrive under Guam’s harsh conditions of salt spray, typhoon force winds, and drought has been largely responsible for its being one of the dominant trees in the Marianas.

IMPORTANCE
Casuarina equisetifolia is one of the most common trees occurring on frost-free beaches to anywhere in the world and constitutes some 3% of all trees planted in tropical areas. Ironwood’s ability to thrive under Guam’s harsh conditions of salt spray, typhoon force winds, and drought has been largely responsible for its being one of the dominant trees in the Marianas.

SELECTED REFERENCES