

well as on seed crops of parsnip and dill; hence it may be assumed that outbreaks may occur again. Other species of *Lygus* have proved capable of reducing seed yields under caged conditions, but outbreaks have not occurred in carrot seed crops in British Columbia. Sporadic infestations of the Pacific Coast wireworm have occurred in some crops, but damage has not been serious. Other injurious insects infest carrot seed crops, but they have not caused serious damage at Grand Forks.

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House Fly Maggots Infesting a Child's Bed

In October 1952, a public health inspector brought in from North Vancouver, some very small maggots which had been removed from the surface and from inside the fabric of a mattress of a child's bed.

The inspector said that a similar infestation had occurred earlier that season on an expensive mattress recently purchased with a new bed. The owners had contacted the

store from which the bed had been purchased and they and the manager of the store and the health inspector, had shredded the mattress and found many maggots and puparia inside the stuffing. The store then replaced the mattress and shortly afterwards, more maggots were found in the new one. As usual in such cases, the people concerned considered they had done the right thing

by drenching the mattress, the bed and the room, with insecticide. However, the inspector saved six maggots to bring to me. Three of these died shortly afterwards, but three pupated and between November 14 and November 18, three flies emerged which I identified as *Musca domestica* Linn. the common house fly. The flies were scarcely half the size of normal house flies so I sent one to Mr. G. E. Shewell, Division of Entomology, Ottawa, who confirmed my identification.

The inspector said that the house where the infestation occurred was right on the sea shore, belonged to people of some substance, was extremely clean and well kept and that the housewife declared that the baby's bed was always covered with a rubber sheet under the normal bed clothes. Probably the rubber sheet leaked and the mattress became soaked with urine, and when it was hung out to dry, the flies laid eggs upon

it; certainly a diet of urine was famine rations because the maggots were half starved and stunted and the flies were the smallest I have ever seen of this species.

Amongst a long list of substances on which or in which house fly maggots can develop Hewitt* records "substances contaminated or mixed with excremental products, such as bedding from piggeries and from rabbits and guinea pigs, paper and textile fabrics which have been contaminated, as cotton and woollen garments, sacking, rotten flock-beds, straw mattresses, cess pools, etc.", but he does not mention urine-soaked material specifically, *i.e.*, material contaminated with urine only. (There is a recent reference to house flies developing on urine alone but I cannot locate it at this time.—G. J. Spencer, University of British Columbia.

* Hewitt C. Gordon, 1910. The House Fly. Manchester University Press.

SOME UNUSUAL RECORDS OF BEETLES IN VANCOUVER

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Two blocks from my house in West Point Grey are several rhododendron bushes whose lower leaves have been ragged for years. On May 20, 1952, I examined them at night with a flashlight, swept the bushes thoroughly and recovered a few specimens of *Brachyrhinus singularis* L. the clay-coloured weevil which injures laurel hedges so extensively in Vancouver, but more specimens of a weevil identified for me as *Strophosoma melanogrammus* Forst. an insect slightly smaller than the clay-coloured weevil. In his Catalogue of the Coleoptera of North America Leng lists one species (16641) in this genus, *S. coryli* (Fab.); I do not know when Forst named this second species. Anderson (Proc. B.C. Ent. Soc. 38, 1942) mentions that Kaven in Germany found *B. singularis* attacking rhododendron, but this instance of *S. melanogrammus* would seem to be a new record for this species on this host.

Another unusual record is of a small beetle *Barypeithes pellucidus* Boh., No. 16672 in Leng's Catalogue, the only species in this genus, listed as "introduced" from Old France and recorded from New England and New

York. This beetle was sent in to me from Burnaby where it was found in tunnels of one of our native death watch beetles *Coelosthetus* which was burrowing freely in timbers of an old house, heavily attacked by dry rot. Chunks of wood were sent to me (25.V.1953) and I recovered the beetles from the tunnels. This was the second time that I have taken this beetle from tunnels of *Coelosthetus*; but the first time I mistook them for strawberry root weevils that had merely sheltered in the wood and, unfortunately I discarded them. The insects which are slightly smaller than the strawberry root weevil, have a shining black head with very dark brown thorax, dark brown elytra and tan-coloured legs and antennae. It may be that this beetle is a predator on some stage of *Coelosthetus*; its occurrence in the death watch tunnels seems to be hardly accidental.

A third rather unusual beetle record is of a small Nitidulid, *Meligethes nigrescens* Stephens, not mentioned in Leng's Catalogue. Specimens of this insect were brought to me in April, 1953, from a neighbouring golf course