



Fig. 1.—Section of lead sheathing showing damage caused by larvae of *Hofmannophila pseudospretella* (Staint.).

Lice on a Bald-headed Eagle

On several occasions I have received from collectors a few specimens of a very small Mallophagan, *Colpocephalum flavescens* Hann, 1829, which is a normal louse of the bald-headed eagle. In 1947 Mr. Charles Guiguet of the Provincial Museum, Victoria, sent me one specimen of a magnificent louse $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long taken from an eagle collected at Graham Island, Queen Charlotte Islands. This specimen was placed by Miss Theresa Clay of The British Museum in the genus *Laemobothrion*, species undetermined. Dr. K. C. Emerson of Oklahoma who has probably the second largest collection of Mallophaga in the world, told me that a *Laemobothrion* from bald-headed eagle had yet to be described.

On 1 February 1956, Provincial Game Inspector C. E. Estlin of Courtenay, Vancouver Island, sent in to the Dept of Zoology a young bald-headed eagle which he had confiscated from a citizen. The bird was afflicted with a rough, cancerous growth on the neck and at the base of the bill and must have been quite sickly to have had been killed with a shotgun;

normally one does not get close enough to an eagle to collect it with a shotgun. I have always found that sickly animals have more ectoparasites on them than healthy ones. Certainly in this instance never was sickness in a bird more profitable.

The outside of the paper wrappings that were around the eagle were crawling with lice, and from the bird itself I recovered about two cubic centimetres of *C. flavescens* after which I grew tired of picking them off the eagle, off myself, and for the next three days, off my laboratory coat.

Besides the small living lice, there dropped off the bird three dead specimens of *Laemobothrion*. Immediately the eagle was ruffled and brushed over to the last feather until no more large lice could be found. No less than 42 adults of both sexes and nymphs were obtained, females greatly predominating. If this is indeed a new species, the University will have a fine series of paratypes.—G. J. Spencer, University of British Columbia.

Platynus Retractus (Lec.)

Platynus retractus (Lec.) (Coleoptera: Carabidae). In *The Beetles of the Pacific North-West* Hatch mentions this species (p. 145), but could find no definite proof of its occurrence in our fauna, so "It is for the time being excluded from the Northwest list". But I have three specimens from Creston, B.C., verified by Lindroth. They are closest

to *gratiosus* Mann., but are smaller, more ovate, antennae paler and with other minor distinctions, and are recognizable on sight. Most records of *retractus* are Eastern, but Carr has it on the Alberta list and it is known from Montana.—G. Stace Smith, Creston, B.C.