

### THREE INSECTS NEW TO VANCOUVER

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On July 10, 1958, Mrs. J. A. Shiers of 4816 Angus Drive, Vancouver, brought in several twigs and small branches of Copper beech on which all the leaves were heavily infested with blotch mines. The branches were caged and for the next two weeks produced tiny moths of the family Gracillariidae, genus *Lithocolletis*, but a far greater number of hymenopterous parasites of three species. The parasitism ran about 90 percent. Mrs. Shiers said that the beeches were 40 to 50 feet high and that a few mines had been noticed in the topmost leaves in 1957, but that in 1958 the whole appearance of the tree was spoiled; other trees in her neighborhood were not infested. This is the first time I have encountered this trouble and I can find no record of it on this continent or in England. The moths and their parasites have not been identified as yet.

The second unusual record came from a hardwood importing firm whose shipment of 1"x6" Tennessee cedar boards was producing hordes of beetles. These were half-inch long, longicorns of a beautiful bluish purple colour which Dr. Gorton Linsley identified as *Callidium schotti* Schaef. I am grateful to Mr. H. B. Leech of the California Academy of Sciences for getting these beetles identified for me. I kept them in a cage and for the next three weeks they rushed about furiously in jerks over the boards, spending much time mating. Eventually the females laid many eggs on the small portions of bark adhering

to sides of the boards. When the eggs hatched the minute larvae moved into the bark and soon disappeared. However, none succeeded in becoming established, so it is unlikely that this insect will breed in our climate on local cedars. An entomologist from West Virginia told me that this beetle is specific to Tennessee or Eastern cedar.

The third record concerns a terrific infestation of Phylloxera in July and August 1958 on a four-foot English oak in my back yard, so extensive that every leaf was heavily infested. The insects caused pale blotches above where they were feeding so that the general effect was that of a fungous disease. The oak is six years old and has never shown this damage before. The Phylloxera cannot be keyed out amongst the 11 species that Duncan described from oaks in California so it may be either recently introduced into this Province or new to science.

The insect was in two forms, winged and wingless. The latter was shaped like a peg top, was larger in body than the winged ones and laid reddish brown oval eggs in semi- or in full circles. It rotated on its front legs, laying eggs like radii of a circle.

Its development is unknown, for the tree was so thoroughly sprayed three times that it is not likely that the Phylloxera survived.

Oaks less than 70 yards away on the boulevard had no similar infestation, so the origin of the insect is a mystery.

#### Reference

- Duncan, Carl D. 1922. The North American species of Phylloxera infesting oak and chestnut. (Hemiptera, Phylloxeridae) Can. Ent. LIV. No. 12.





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