

calls the small black or grass weevil, has become increasingly abundant as a pest of strawberry and some nursery crops in the Willamette Valley and coastal counties of Oregon. In Canada, the species has been observed as numerous but not a pest in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Ontario; a single specimen was taken in Fernie, British Columbia (Brown, 1940, 1950).

In the Fraser Valley, adults have been taken in abundance in recent years at windows in homes during the fall and spring. Their occurrence here is fortuitous, for like other root weevil adults they have the annoy-

ing habit of entering homes in late summer and fall.

The extent of damage to roots by the larvae is not known, but Rosenstiel (1963) considers that control is necessary and recommends a spray of Guthion in July. At Abbotsford, a satisfactory kill of adults was obtained using malathion with DDT applied in mid-June at field rates. In preliminary laboratory tests adults were readily killed with field rates of Guthion and malathion but not with diazinon or DDT.

The adults are not easy to find. They are only 3 mm long and usually are so coated with soil as to be virtually indistinguishable from small soil particles.

References

- Brown, W. J. 1940. Notes on the American distribution of some species of Coleoptera common to the European and North American continents. *Canad. Ent.* 72:65-78.
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 Rosenstiel, R. G. 1963. Root weevils and their control in strawberry fields. *Oregon State Univ. Ext. Cir.* 717.

THE CIGARETTE BEETLE IN VANCOUVER (Coleoptera: Anobiidae)

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In 1961, the dried, partly cleaned skeleton of a small monkey was sent from Malaya in a heavy plastic bag, to the university department of Zoology. More than six months later small beetles emerged from the hard, dried flesh on the bones. From the carcass I obtained a good series of *Lasioderma serricornis* (Fabr.) (Anobiidae) the cigarette beetle. This was the first time I had recorded the insect in the province.

In October, 1962 I received an enquiry and soon after some specimens of cigarette beetles from a medical doctor in New Westminster who reported "insects in numbers all over the house." The breeding place was in a 2 lb. bag of bran

from which the infestation had spread to a contiguous bag of corn meal. Both materials had come from the food section of a large department store to whose manager I reported the seriousness of the situation; the man was furious, taking it to be a slight upon his department. I reported it to the owner of the store who appreciated the matter and apparently took steps to remedy it because there have been no further complaints.

The beetles are slightly larger and about one-and-a-half times as broad as the drug store beetle with the same cowl-shaped prothorax which nearly conceals the hypognathous head. The elytra are smooth and not grooved lengthwise as are those of the drug store beetle. When disturb-

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ed, the adults feign death but quickly become active and fly very readily.

I cultured them on various foods: pipe tobacco alone; powdered, pelleted, small-animal food containing many ingredients reported to constitute a balanced ration; a mixture of pipe tobacco and pellet-powder; and a brand-name cat food, dried and powdered. Each culture formed a flourishing colony, the weakest being that on tobacco alone and the strongest, that on the mixture of tobacco and pellet powder.

The third record of this beetle occurred in February 1963 in the catch-basins of proprietary electric light traps which had electrocuted a considerable number of flies on whose dried bodies the beetles were developing. The traps had been installed around a paper mill where they functioned more to attract insects, especially moths, into the buildings, than to keep the buildings free from them.

The fourth record was in April, 1963, in the roots of *Adenophora verticillata* (Campanulaceae). The fleshy, white roots of this plant are used medicinally and in soups by Chinese, who import the material from Hong Kong; so this infestation may have come from the Orient. These adults were larger on the average than those from other

sources. It is likely that the insects had spread to other commodities in the shop from which the roots came.

The fifth record came from a house in Abbotsford, in October, 1963. These specimens were the smallest of any and were reported to be emerging in numbers every day from one article of a two-piece Chesterfield set which the owner had acquired two years before.

This beetle has been recorded breeding in tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes with a high sugar content, in furniture upholstered with flax, tow or straw, in seeds and other dried plant products and in black and red pepper (1). To these must be added my records of dried meat and insect bodies.

Metcalf *et al.* (1) recommend heat of 130° to 135°F for at least six hours to allow the heat to penetrate upholstery. In the cases recorded here I have recommended placing the breeding material overnight in deep-freeze compartments and for the upholstered chair, leaving it in a deep-freeze food locker for 24 hours.

It appears that the insect finds the climate of this part of the Province suitable for its development. I see no reason why it should not become another widespread household pest.

Reference

1. Metcalf, C. L., W. P. Flint, and R. L. Metcalf. *Destructive and Useful Insects* 3rd. Ed. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc. 1951.