

## References

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**SCIENTIFIC NOTE**  
**THE IDENTITY OF THE BLACK-WIDOW SPIDER**  
**IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

For many years the black-widow spider throughout North America was thought to be *Latrodectus mactans* (Fabr.). Spiders of this worldwide genus are extremely variable, and both characters and ranges overlap in many cases. It has, therefore, been difficult to establish the correct identity of its members in many localities, including our own. In 1961, Spencer reported on a study by Levi which placed our northwestern specimens

under *L. curacaviensis* (Muller).

This note is to report that Kaston (1968) after rearing cultures from all over North America, including British Columbia, has concluded that the black-widow of Western Canada and the Pacific States must be called *L. hesperus* Chamberlain & Ivie (1935), an opinion in which Dr. W. J. Gertsch of the American Museum of Natural History concurs.

## References

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**L. C. CURTIS**  
*Research Station,*  
**Kamloops, B.C.**