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**THE FUNGI *BEAUVERIA BASSIANA* AND
METARRHIZIUM ANISOPLIAE IN CULTURES OF THE
ROOT WEEVIL *NEMOCESTES INCOMPTUS* HORN
(COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE)**

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The woods weevil, *Nemocestes incomptus* Horn, is a native root weevil which causes serious damage to strawberries in coastal British Columbia. Freshly emerged adults were collected in large numbers from a strawberry planting in early September 1971, and confined in screen-covered quart sealers in the laboratory at room temperature. About 200 adults were kept in each sealer and fed fresh wet strawberry foliage daily. By early October most of the adults had died. White fungus was seen at their leg joints and mouthparts. When apparently healthy, freshly collected adults were confined singly with a dead, fungus-

covered adult they died within two to three days. The fungi on the dead weevils were identified as *Beauveria bassiana* (Fig. 1A) and *Metarrhizium anisopliae* (Fig. 1, A and B). These fungi are well known and have many insect hosts. The importance of these fungi in controlling root weevil adults or larvae in the field is not known but warrants further investigation.

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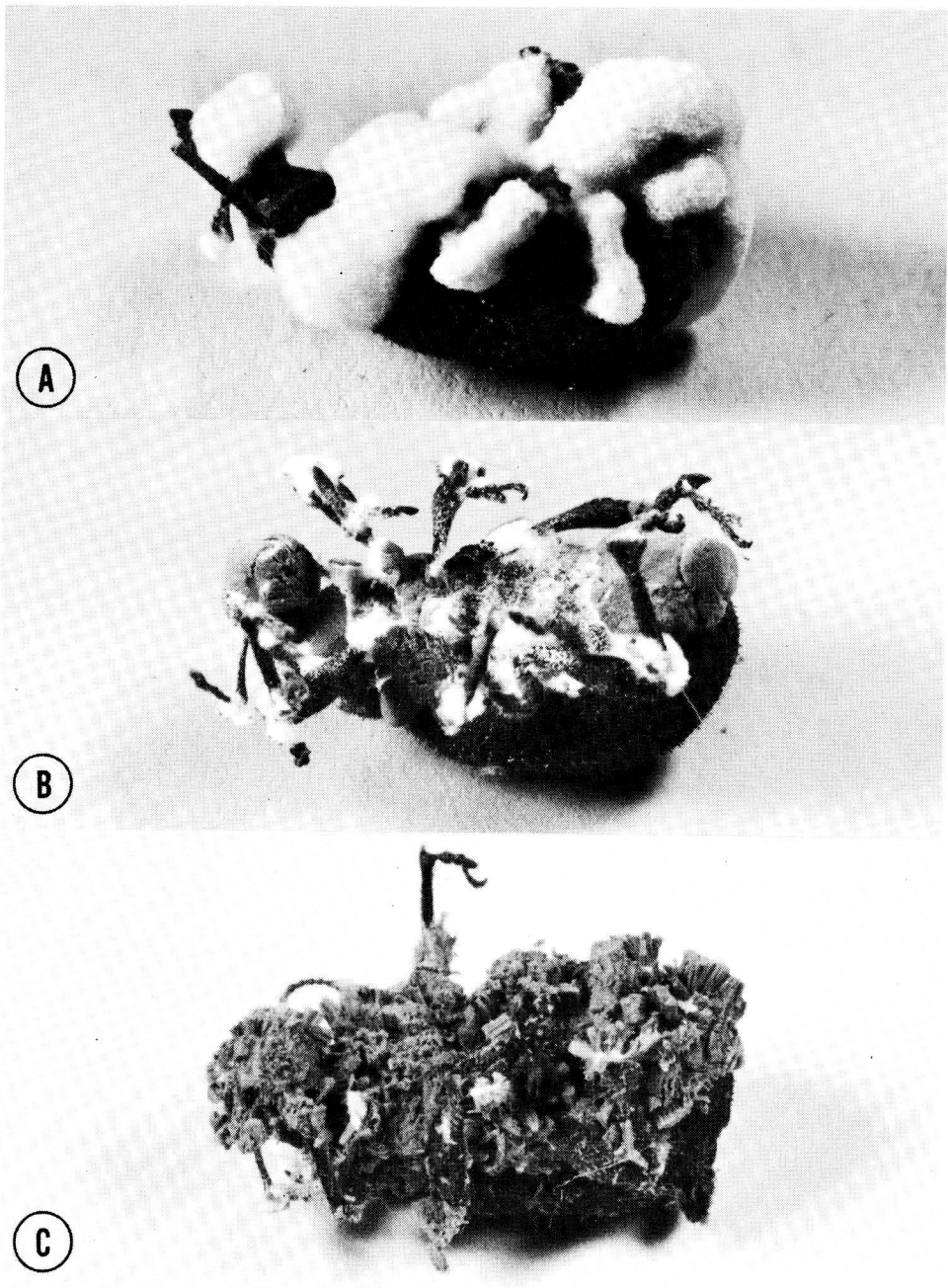


Fig. 1. A. *Beauveria bassiana* on *Nemocestes incomptus* adult.
B. Early stage of *Metarrhizium anisopliae* on *N. incomptus* adult.
C. Late stage of *M. anisopliae* on *N. incomptus* adult showing prismatic masses of spores.