

## THREE SPECIES OF COLEOPTERA NEW TO BRITISH COLUMBIA

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At Osoyoos on July 1, 1972 I found the first authentic British Columbia specimens of the hollyhock weevil, *Apion longirostris* O1. (Apelmonini : Curculionidae). This well-known palearctic species, native to southern and southeastern Europe, Asia Minor and Persia (Iran), was first found in North America in 1914. According to Hatch (1971) it is now widespread over the United States. It reached the Pacific Northwest in 1966 and is known from eastern Washington and western Oregon.

I noted a number of hollyhocks, *Althea rosea* Chevr., in a garden with the leaves badly damaged by small round holes. Close inspection revealed a colony of the hollyhock weevils, many in copula, crawling on the leaves, stems and flower buds. The females, which were easily recognizable by the extremely long rostrum, which is longer than the rest of the body, were burrowing into the buds, and both sexes were feeding on the leaves. Hundreds of weevils, in perfect condition, were seen in this garden and on other hollyhocks close by. A search elsewhere in Osoyoos produced no further specimens.

It is impossible to say if this occurrence indicates a recent immigration or if the species was present earlier, but overlooked. I saw none in this area in 1966 or 1967. Since I have numerous specimens from the Ukraine and Persia in my collection, I took only 24 specimens, hoping that this *Apion* would become established here. One pair has been deposited in the University of British Columbia collection, and one pair in Mr. J. Grant's collection at Vernon.

The species of the genus *Phyllotreta* (Halticini: Chrysomelidae) are insufficiently known. Many are inconspicuous, small and dull-looking and do not attract the attention of

entomologists. Being particularly interested in the holarctic aspect of the genus, I was pleased to find two species new to British Columbia. *P. utana* Chitt. is a large vittate American species, recorded by Chittenden (1927) from Utah, Nevada, Oregon and Montana and by Hatch from western Montana and Oregon. One female was taken by Mr. G. H. Larnder at Errington, on Vancouver Island, August 9, 1931 and determined by Professor L. G. Gentner (in *coll. mea*). I collected three females at Essondale, on March 31, 1969; April 8, 1969; and June 16, 1971. All were creeping on the east-facing wall of a building. According to Chittenden the host plant is most likely hedge mustard, *Sisymbrium* sp. The repeated though sporadic occurrence of this species and its occurrence in two widely separated localities indicates that it is probably a native insect; its apparent rarity in British Columbia may perhaps be due to its being near the northernmost extremity of its range.

*Phyllotreta armoraciae* Koch. is a native of Europe which was first collected in North America in 1893. It was first recorded from the Pacific Northwest by Schuh, in northern Idaho, in 1960 (Hatch 1971). I took one specimen of this easily recognizable species on the wall of a building at Essondale on June 17, 1968. The host plant is horseradish, *Armoracia lapathifolia* Gilib. (= *Cochlearia armoracia* L.), and it appears that the beetle is a monophage of this introduced plant. No horse radish grows in Essondale but it is possible that it is cultivated in nearby Port Coquitlam. The specimen collected could have flown in from that locality, carried on an easterly wind, or perhaps, because of the proximity of the railroad to the building, it was imported recently from eastern North America on a freight train.

### References

- Chittenden, F. H. 1927. The Species of *Phyllotreta* North of Mexico. Ent. Am. 8: 1-63.  
Hatch, M. H. 1971. The beetles of the Pacific Northwest. Part V. Univ. Wash. Press. Seattle & London.