

***PTILODACTYLA SERRICOLLIS* (COLEOPTERA: PTILODACTYLIDAE) IN  
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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The Ptilodactylidae (Toed-winged Beetles) contains about 35 genera and 300 species according to recent definitions of the family (Lawrence 1982). Such definitions are much broader than those published by Arnett (1968, 1983). It is primarily a tropical family.

Adults of the Ptilodactylidae are "2-16 mm (usually 4-12 mm) in length, oblong to elongate, and glabrous or clothed with fine hairs. The antennae range from serrate to pectinate, and are usually more highly modified in males..." (Lawrence 1982). In *Ptilodactyla* the antennae are 11-segmented, serrate in the female, pectinate in the male; in the latter, segments 4-10 each bear a long, narrow basal process (Arnett 1968).

Adults are found on vegetation, often in marshy areas, and frequently are attracted to lights at night. The larvae live in leaf litter, rotting logs, damp soil and debris at the edge of streams (Arnett 1968, Lawrence 1982).

On 20 July 1979 one of us (JGF) collected a male and female *Ptilodactyla serricollis* (Say) on the garden patio of an apartment building adjacent to Beacon Hill Park, Victoria, B.C.

*P. serricollis* is one of the more common species of the family in North America. It is recorded from the eastern United States (Arnett 1983) and from Québec (Chagnon and Robert 1962) and Ontario (Evans 1904). All specimens in the Canadian National Collection (Agriculture Canada, Ottawa) are from Québec and Ontario (LeSage, *in litt.*).

Since specimens of *Ptilodactyla* are "rather commonly transported as larvae in greenhouse potting soils" (J. B. Stribling, *in litt.*), it is probable that the two specimens were merely adventives from eastern North America. Potted plants and nursery stock were abundant around the collection site. Nevertheless, the possibility of small populations of *P. serricollis* becoming established on the Pacific coast should not be discounted.

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Walter Lazorko (Vancouver) first identified the specimens; James Stribling (Department of Entomology, Ohio State University) confirmed the identification. Syd Cannings (Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia) and Laurent LeSage (Biosystematics Research Institute, Agriculture Canada) commented on the manuscript.

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