

UPON NEUTRALIZING THE ODOUR OF *NOMIUS PYGMAEUS* (DEJ.), THE STINK BEETLE (COLEOPTERA: CARABIDAE).

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During certain summers, and especially when the smoke of forest fires on Vancouver Island is driven by a west wind, any section of the City of Vancouver may be plagued with *Nomius pygmaeus* (Dej.), the stink beetle, which, for its size, is probably one of the most powerfully obnoxious creatures in the world. One individual, crushed or injured in a room, will render that room uninhabitable for two weeks, and the smell persists for months. In late August, 1951, a number of reports was received by the Department of Zoology, of these beetles occurring in homes; one such enquiry came from a physician who was attending a woman for a slight head wound and from her hair he removed a stink beetle; he felt that the stench could not possibly arise from such a slight wound and wondered if the beetle had been attracted by the wound. Another report, from North Vancouver, was of three beetles found on steps just outside a basement door over a period of two days; the beetles had not been injured in

any way but were rendering the basement most foul by their mere presence.

From various sources, three beetles were obtained uninjured and a number of chemicals, including activated charcoal, tested as possible deodorants. None was effective except those containing active chlorine such as sodium hypochlorite, ordinary household bleach and chloride of lime. A few drops of sodium hypochlorite on the cork of a test-tube will deodorize the smell of a beetle in the tube in ten minutes, leaving only a faint musty odour: further exposure renders the beetle as inoffensive as any ordinary pinned carabid.

For the treatment of rooms where beetles had been crushed, it was recommended that household bleach be used in an ordinary fly sprayer. For outside premises, dusting with fresh chloride of lime was recommended. The citizens reported that the treatment was successful and the stink of the beetle was neutralized almost completely in a short time.

PRELIMINARY ORCHARD TRIALS WITH SYSTEMIC INSECTICIDES¹

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At the Summerland laboratory work on systemic insecticides was commenced in 1950. Prestox 3 (30 per cent schradan³) was applied to Delicious apple trees as a "pink" spray at one quart per 100 imperial gallons against the European red mite, *Metatetranychus ulmi* (Koch). It compared

favourably with the standard recommendation of one pound of 15 per cent. parathion. Seasonal averages in terms of mites per leaf were Pestox 3, 0.6, and parathion, 0.2. The untreated trees carried 14.8 mites per leaf in late May and had to be sprayed. In August, Systox (32.1 per cent. diethyl S-ethylmercapto-ethyl thiophosphate)⁴ at one quarter-pint was applied to Delicious apple trees to control the two-spotted spider mite, *Tetranychus bimaculatus* Harvey. A comparison with 15 per cent. parathion, one pound is given in Table I.

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