

From that time up to 1944 no further infestations were encountered. In January and February 1945, however, three records were reported to me, two of them in one day; in two of these I obtained beetles or enough parts of beetles, to identify the insects definitely as *A. punctatum*. One record concerns massive antique carved oak chairs in a farm-house near Langley Prairie, from which the owner tapped out and sent to me a two-ounce bottle of boring dust which yielded the remains of approximately twelve beetles, all *A. punctatum*. The infestation seemed so active that I recommended fumigation with methyl bromide, which was apparently successful. The chairs were family heirlooms sent out from Germany some time ago, although the infestation became serious relatively recently.

The second of these 1945 reports concerns all of the 3-ply wooden walls of a basement room in a Vancouver home, which began to show small round holes and a little boring dust. There were relatively few holes but the owner became alarmed and began to tear out the 1/3-inch-thick plywood, only to find it a mere shell with the middle layer particularly, tunnelled in all directions and crumbling away. He sent in specimens of the damaged wood and one beetle which proved to be *A. punctatum*, but could offer no suggestion whatever as to the origin of the infestation.

The final record includes the entire basement woodwork of a house in North Vancouver where the owners noticed an increasing number of holes appearing in the 2- by 4-inch studding and shiplap and, on tapping with a hammer, found the timber a mere shell with the inside reduced practically to dust. Bit by bit, they located the worst areas of infestation and replaced them, heavily creosoting new wood and what remained of the old. Samples of wood sent in with copious boring dust and frass, showed that this same beetle was concerned.

In none of these records have the owners been bothered by adult beetles swarming around the house; only a few seem to come out of the timber and then only at odd times so that they never become conspicuous.

In the last two records involving the structural timbers, the owners declared that no antique furniture had been stored in the basements so it would appear that the infestations were of local origin and that this beetle has become established in the Lower Fraser Valley where the mild climate would seem to favour its development.

A. punctatum or the death watch beetle is an insidious insect whose damage inside timber is far greater than the small number of exit holes would indicate, and the public will have to be warned to be on the lookout for it.

ON THE OVIPOSITION HABITS OF DARGIDA PROCINCTA (Lepidoptera: Phalaenidae).—At dusk on the evening of July 10, I was watering my lawn in Vancouver with a fine mist spray, when several moths flew into the orbit of the spray and started ovipositing in the short lawn grass. Each moth hovered a little and then settled for five or six seconds with the tip of her abdomen protruded and inserted into the bases of the grass leaves and then moved to another spot a few inches away to repeat the manoeuvre, always within the limits of the falling water. By slowly shifting the hose back and forth, I was able to govern the movements of the moths which persistently followed the zone of the spray. After proving that the falling water was apparently a necessity for the act of oviposition, I pounced on one of the moths and the others flew away.

In the insect collections of the Museum of Zoology

1 Essig, E. O., 1926. Insects of Western North America, p. 684. MacMillan.

at this University, I found three specimens of this moth taken, respectively, at Princeton, July 23, and at Victoria, August 6 and September 15, and these, with my record of July 10, show a wide range in this Province, both in time and in territory.

The moth is *Dargida procincta* (Grote), the olive green cutworm of which Essig¹ says—"it has a wing expanse of 45 mm., is dark brown with olive tints, and with cream cross and longitudinal lines on the fore wings. The mature caterpillars are 30-35 mm. in length, dark olive green with a pale dorsal line and three greenish lateral lines separated by brownish grey. They are often serious pests to wild and tame grasses in meadows and pasturelands in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, but are also known in California and Colorado."

Judging by my record, the moths of the olive green cutworm oviposit at dusk during rain: egg-laying seems dependent on the falling of the rain.—G. J. Spencer, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.