

six months of captivity. On the other hand I have reared them in bulk with a mass of dried insects, and they developed into beetles. As soon as adults emerge they should be removed from a culture if specimens for pinning are desired, otherwise the ensuing larvae eat the bodies of their dead parents, as do those of *A. verbasci*. All my pinned specimens were reared in the laboratory in Vancouver with the exception of one beetle which occurred on a window of the Dominion Entomological Laboratory in Kamloops. I have never captured it out of doors in the dry belt although I suspect that it came to the University originally from Upper Hat Creek where I was working in 1931 and whence I brought down much dried, pinned material, which, I think, became infested during the process of drying before the specimens were pinned away into

boxes. Milliron, who described this species in 1939 from Minnesota, obtained his material from an old demonstration nest of the wasp, *Vespula arenaria*. However, I have put both adults and larvae into a glass jar containing a nest of *Vespula* which contained an abundance of wasp larval faeces and dried larvae and pupae but was not able to establish a colony in this medium. Neither will larvae develop on Fox Chow dust which has proved so successful for *A. verbasci*. The bodies of dried grasshoppers, fat moths and especially dried marine crustacea, are excellent food for this *P. vespulae*.

In addition to these listed above, I have a few specimens only of each of two further species of *Dermestidae*, near *Megatomia*, but have not been able to get them identified as yet.

LITERATURE CITED

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- Milliron, H. E.**, 1939. A Parthenogenetic New Species of the Genus *Perimegatoma* Horn (Coleoptera: Dermestidae). *Annals Ent. Soc. of Am.*, 32 (3):570-574.

THE CLAY-COLOURED WEEVIL, **BRACHYRHINUS SINGULARIS**, IN WEST POINT GREY, VANCOUVER. (Coleoptera: Curculionidae).—The clay-coloured weevil, *Brachyrhinus singularis* (L.) first reported in this Province from Victoria by Mr. Harry Andison (*Ent. Soc. B.C. Proc.* 38, 1942) appeared in West Point Grey in October 1944, when one specimen was captured in my house. The next year, four beetles were taken on the kitchen and pantry windows, also in October. Now in the spring of 1944 I had first noticed holes eaten out of the leaves of purple iris bordering the sidewalk alongside the house and in 1945 the holes had noticeably increased until many leaves showed extensive damage: on both occasions the plants were inspected by daylight but no insects could be found on them. In the first week of May 1945, the irises were examined at night with a flashlight, at intervals from 8 o'clock onwards and several weevils were found chewing holes in the leaves. By 9 o'clock they had increased in numbers and remained fairly constant for the next half hour, so the worst infested portion of the bed, a strip some 35 feet alongside the house, was carefully swept with a net and many weevils were taken; a further strip of some 105 feet alongside the garden fence where the irises were but little damaged, yielded about a dozen more. In all, 131 clay-coloured weevils, 2 strawberry-root weevils (*Brachyrhinus ovatus* (L.)) and 4 others (sp. indet.) were collected

from off the iris leaves.

Apparently this sweeping removed practically all the beetles because in October 1946, only one iris leaf was found to have been recently damaged and no beetles could be located.

During the first week in May, 1947, the iris plants in these two beds and other clumps inside the garden walls, which hitherto had not been touched, showed signs of being attacked. Sweeping at 9 p.m. on May 10th yielded 23 beetles, and no subsequent damage occurred.

The garden contains a considerable range of annuals and perennials but only irises seem to be attacked and, of several varieties of these, the purple is most susceptible. The weevils apparently range widely since one was taken in May, on a limb of a sweet cherry tree, 25 feet from the trunk and 6 feet off the ground, so their damage will probably soon extend to other plants besides iris. Andison (loc. cit.) records them as extensively injuring laurel leaves in Victoria. There are no laurels in my garden but for several years I have noticed the lower leaves of several laurel bushes in the next block, to be extensively damaged: it is therefore very likely that this same insect is concerned and that its distribution in West Point Grey is far more extensive than is at present realized.—G. J. Spencer, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia.