

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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First North American Record of Pandemis ribeana (Hubner) at Victoria, B.C.—During 1965 many native oaks, Quercus garryana Dougl., were raggedly defoliated by the activities of Pandemis ribeana (Hubner) (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae), a small leaf roller. This caused considerable concern among householders who value the oaks as ornamentals and shade trees. Most of the feeding occurred in early May when the leaves were small, and thus the damage became more apparent as the season progressed and the branches produced only tatters of leaves. Defoliation by the normally large and varied insect population on Garry oak later became unusually evident because so much foliage had already been destroyed by Pandemis. Although oak insects in the Victoria area have been studied intensively, only a single specimen of P. ribeana had previously been recovered (1964, first North American record), and the sudden appearance of such a large population was surprising. It is believed that the species must have been present on other host plants for some time. P. ribeana is a common European insect, feeding on a wide variety of plants, and occasionally causing damage. It would be relatively difficult to control because of its leaf rolling habit and its wide host range. To date, the 1966 population at Victoria continues at a high level with very erratic distribution, and it is being watched closely.—D. Evans.

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