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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY  
**PEST REPORT**

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

June 22, 1973.

BLACK ARMYWORM

Lew Fiddick

A pest report by S. J. Allen, June 8, 1973, described an infestation of the black army cutworm, Actebia fennica, in a plantation at Bearcub Creek, Prince George Forest District. Since that time infestations have been reported in plantations at Andrew Bay on Ootsa Lake, Tagetochlain (Poplar) Lake, and Goosly Lake, all in the Prince Rupert Forest District. At Andrew Bay, the infestation occurred in several 300-400 acre blocks that had been cleanly logged and burned in 1972, and planted in 1973. Ground cover plants and a large percentage of the lodgepole pine seedlings were almost completely defoliated by June 12, and larvae were wandering in search of food or congregating in moist areas at the edges of swamps. Some larvae had burrowed into the upper layer of duff, presumably preparing to pupate.

At Tagetochlain Lake, lodgepole pine and white spruce seedlings were examined on June 18 on some 25 acres of a 200-300 acre plantation. Almost all seedlings examined were completely defoliated, as were all other ground cover plants including grasses. Muddy road conditions prevented an examination of the infestation at Goosly Lake.

Provincial and industry foresters were concerned about the hazard to seedlings if planting was continued in these areas. It was suggested that since most larvae appeared to be in the final stage of larval development that little more feeding was likely to occur, and further plantings would not be severely damaged by the black armyworm in 1973.