Status of Insects in the Lake Erie District

Trinnell, J.R.

Information Report 0-X-11 (Forest Research Laboratory, Ontario Region)

FOREWORD

J. E. MacDonald

Outbreaks of the forest tent caterpillar have highlighted reports dealing with forest insect surveys for the past several years. In 1965, the outbreak in Western Ontario reached its peak and poplar stands within an area of about 34,000 square miles were severely defoliated. Egg surveys in the fall revealed that a marked decline in infestation intensity will occur in Sioux Lookout and Kenora districts but high larval populations will persist in Fort Frances and Port Arthur districts in 1966. Trends in infestation intensities will vary from area to area in eastern Ontario, with the most noteworthy increase in the extent of infestations occurring in the Lake Nipissing outbreak.

The development of new infestations of Bruce spanworm and the European pine sawfly were of particular interest in 1965. Infestations of the former occurred in Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Pembroke districts. Severe defoliation of hardwoods that resulted in relatively large areas represented first records of extensive infestations in Ontario. A major extension in the known distribution of the European pine sawfly was recorded when the insect was found in two Scots pine plantations on Manitoulin Island. This extension places the insect much closer to major stands of jack pine in northern Ontario.

For the third consecutive year low temperatures in the spring caused considerable mortality of the current year's shoots of balsam fir and white spruce at many locations in Ontario. Continued cold weather throughout the summer delayed the development of many insects and in some instances larvae failed to reach maturity before freezing temperatures occurred in the fall.

Tree disease surveys continued to reveal serious losses of white elm resulting from Dutch elm disease in southern Ontario. In northern Ontario two centers of infection occurred on Manitoulin Island and infected elm were found at one location near Spanish on the Morth Shore of Lake Huron. Intensive surveys to determine the distribution and incidence of this disease will be continued in 1966.

During the early years of the Survey in Ontario Field Technicians were largely concerned with determining the distribution and abundance of forest insects and appraising losses in forest stands. As a consequence the detection aspect of survey work was of a high order. Later, added responsibility for disease surveys and the development of more elaborate sampling procedures, reduced the time available for purely detection work. To compensate for this, greater emphasis has been placed on systematic aerial reconnaissance throughout the vast forested areas of central and northern Ontario.

The Survey welcomed the addition of a Forest Research Technician to its staff in 1965. This appointment now provides one field representative for each district in the Southeastern Region where formerly three men were responsible for survey work in four districts.

In the reports that follow, insects and tree diseases that are of interest in adjoining districts are dealt with on a regional basis. Others are dealt with in detail on a district basis.

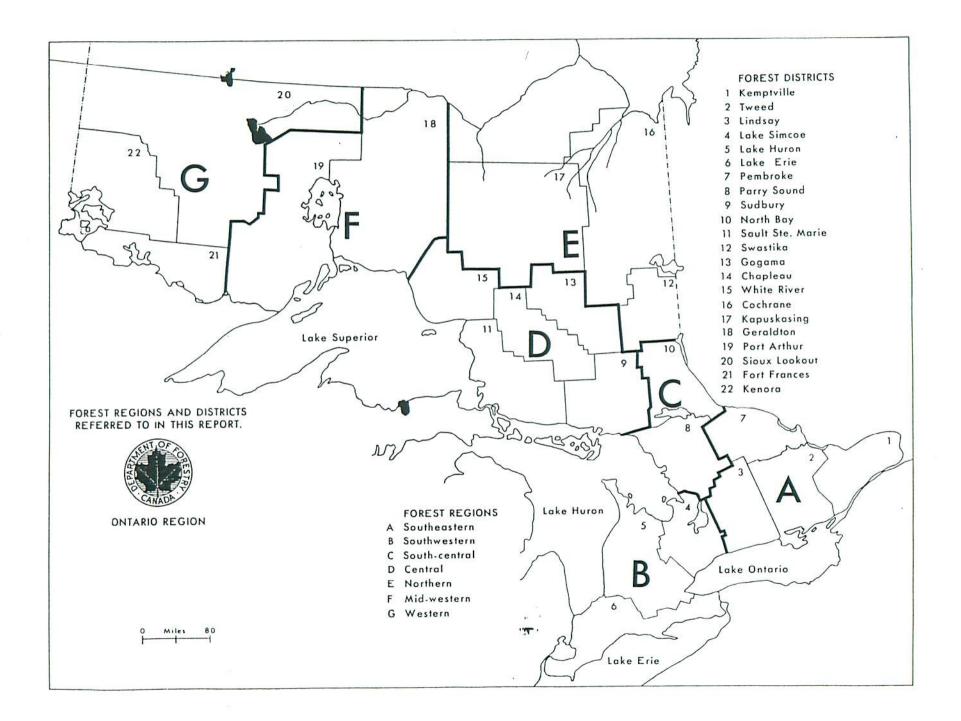


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J. R. Trinnell

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STATUS OF INSECTS

Fall Cankerworm, Alsophila pometaria Harr.

Cankerworm infestations virtually subsided in the district in 1965. Heavy infestations in the Canfield-Canboro area in 1964 declined to very light intensity. All deciduous trees in Lincoln and Welland counties were in better condition this year than for the past several years.

Orange-striped Oakworm, Anisota senatoria A. and S.

Infestations of this insect increased in intensity at Pinery Provincial Park in Bosanquet Township. Defoliation was heavy on a small red oak at the Park entrance, moderate to heavy on six small trees along a nature trail, and moderate on individual red oak trees along roadsides in the Park. Along Highway 21 in this area occasional red oaks under 12-feet in height were severely defoliated. At several points as many as four trees on one side of one mile of roadside were completely stripped. Moderate defoliation recurred on the lower branches of two mature bur oaks near Glencoe, and on the lower branches of a mature, open-grown white oak near Smithville.

Ugly-nest Caterpillar, Archips cerasivoranus Fitch

An upward trend in numbers of this pest occurred in the district in 1965. Heavy infestations occurred on choke cherry along a 100-foot section of highway near Port Maitland and at several other points in Haldimand and Welland counties.

Moderate numbers of colonies were observed in Point Pelee National Park, Mersea Township and near the John E. Pearce Provincial Park in Dunwich Township.

Larch Twig Borer, Argyresthia laricella Kft.

Infestations declined in Carador Township and subsided in South Walsingham Township in 1965. Parasitism had been light to moderate at both points in 1964 (Table 9).

TABLE 9

Summary of Larch Twig Borer Counts in Lake Erie District from 1963 to 1965

Location			age of one-y	
(township)	Host	1963	1964	1965
Caradoc	tL	0.6	1.4	0.6
South Walsingham	eL,	3.6	2.8	nil

Larch Casebearer, Coleophora laricella (Hbn.)

Population levels of this insect increased in Caradoc and North Dorchester townships and the lower crowns of host trees were moderately defoliated at several locations. In Yarmouth Township infestations were heavy on the bottom branches of European larch trees. Numbers were low at other points (Table 10).

TABLE 10

Summary of Larch Casebearer Counts in Lake Eric District from 1963 to 1965

Location		Av. d.b.h.	Av. no.	larvae per	branch tip
(township)	Host	in inches	1963	1964	1965
Bosanquet	tL	10	26.0	5.0	5.9
Caradoc	tL	6	Ehile in	0.9	7.5
Charlotteville North	eL	7	1.0	1.0	Nil
Dorchester	tL	7	4.0	5.5	8.2
South					
Walsingham	eL	6	0.5	0.4	0.2
Yarmouth	eL	9	3.0	0.7	1.5

Walnut Caterpillar, Datana integerrima G. & R.

Light to severe defoliation occurred on solitary and small groups of trees at numerous points in the district. Walnut was the favourite host, although shagbark hickory was also attacked.

Heavy infestations that occurred in Essex County in 1964 declined generally to medium intensity in 1965. However, defoliation was very high at one sample point in this county (Table 11). High populations recurred in Kent County and in the Aylmer area eastward to the district boundary at Tillsonburg. A marked decline occurred in Point Pelee National Park where only a few small trees were moderately defoliated.

Defoliation was light to moderate on eight 50-year-old walnut trees near Merlin in Romney Township. The trees, 15- to 20-feet in height, have been stunted by repeated walnut caterpillar defoliation and branch mortality was high at this location as well as in Adelaide and Dunwich townships.

Walnut caterpillars feed in dense colonies and moult at the base of limbs or on the bole of host trees. Normally large masses of cast skins and webs adhere to the tree for a year or more. Unusual masses of moulting larvae were observed at Nanticoke and Pelham Centre in 1965. These masses of larvae, about three inches in diameter and four inches in length, were suspended from branches on silken webs.

TABLE 11

Summary of Walnut Caterpillar Defoliation Estimates in Lake Erie District from 1963 to 1965

Note: Counts were based on estimates of defoliation of ten black walnut trees at each location.

noitation	er cent defo	Approx. p	Av. height	Av. d.b.h.	Location
396T	796T	£96T	tael ni	səyəur ur	(didsnwod)
ST	OT	OT	22	9	Оплитср
ST	\subseteq	Τ	57	ST	guuiskillen
08	99	405	TS	8	McGillivray
<u>5</u> 5	OT	OT	SO	TT	AsoM
ε	0	OT	ST	٤	South Cayuga
06	ST	ST	28	TS	Tilbury North
20	τ	SO	20	6	Wainfleet
OT	E	0	22	6	medbari

Yellow-necked Caterpillar, Datana ministra (Drury)

Population levels of this insect increased in the district as a whole in 1965. However, medium infestations in Bosanquet and Maidstone townships declined to light intensity in 1965. Medium infestations occurred on several white elm trees in Gosfield South Township, on one S2-foot white elm in Howard Township and on a white elm tree along the MacDonald-Cartier Freeway near the city of London, Defoliation was light to moderate on scattered hawthorn shrubs along Highway S1 in Dawn Township, Parasitism was high in a large colony observed near Hagersville,

Snout Moth Larva, Dioryctria abietivorella Grote

This pest of pines occurred in high numbers in a white pine plantation near St. Thomas. Low numbers recurred in Scots and white pine plantings in Pinafore Park, St. Thomas and in a red pine hedgerow near Simcoe.

The increase in populations of this insect near St. Thomas appeared to be associated with infections by white pine blister rust killed the bark around the control this disease. Sprays used against blister rust killed the bark around the cankered parts of the trees and provided a suitable environment for oviposition by snout moths.

In the Wright Tract, McGillivray Township one 7-foot white pine which was off-colour yellow in the autumn of 1964 was cut down and examined in early August of 1965. Dissection revealed that the tree was heavily infested by snout moth larvae. Sixty-six larvae were found in the stem near ground level and 45 in the adjacent branches.

Zimmerman Pine Moth, Dioryctria zimmermani Grt.

The Zimmerman pine moth remains a serious pest in Scots pine plantations in the Newbury-Bothwell area. The heavy infestations of 1964 in Euphemia Township decreased to medium intensity in 1965. However, some of the plantings in this area have been

so severely damaged over a period of years that their merchantability as Christmas trees has been seriously reduced or nullified. The decline in 1965 populations may have been due, in part, to heavy precipitation during the month of August, 1964 when the adults were in flight. Inclement weather is known to have an adverse affect on oviposition. Field surveys at Newbury on June 3 revealed low numbers of early-stage D. zimmermani larvae associated with large numbers of small, yellow larvae identified by the laboratory as "Olethreutidae, probably Laspeyresia species." Further investigations will be made here in 1966 to determine the identity of the clethreutids.

One 15-foot Scots pine in Pinafore Park, St. Thomas, was re-infested in 1965. Four larvae were dug from the bark and wood, one larva being 9-1/2-feet from ground level. The stem of one Scots pine tree at DeCou House, Thorold Township was attacked at ground level where it had been brussed the previous summer by a lawn mower.

Light infestations were recorded in Grantham, McGillivray, Pelham and Willoughby townships.

Nursery Pine Sawfly, Diprion frutetorum Lec.

Medium infestations in Enniskillen, Stamford and Wainfleet townships declined to light intensity in 1965. Numbers were low at all sample points in the district (Table 12).

TABLE 12

Summary of Nursery Pine Sawfly Larval Counts in Lake Erie District in 1964 and 1965

Location	SE PRODUCE DE CARGO E COMPANSA DE LA CARGO CONTRA DE CARGO CON			o. of insects -trav sample	
(township)	Host	in inches	1964	1965	
Enniskillen	scP	4	72	26	
McGillivray	scP	2	new sent to make	1	
Oneida	scP	2	no system led .	3	
Stamford	ήP	3	1	5	
Stamford	scP	4	110	58	
Willoughby	scP	2	12	5	

European Spruce Sawfly, Diprion hercyniae (Htg.)

Light infestations at Compartment X-8 of the St. Williams Forest Nursery, South Walsingham Township increased to medium intensity in 1965. Numbers were low at all other sampling points in the district (Table 13).

TABLE 13

Summary of European Spruce Sawfly Larval Counts in Lake Erie District in 1964 and 1965

Location		Av. d.b.h.	Total no. of per 15-tray	
(township)	Host	in inches	1964	1965
Adelaide	wS	4,	7	3
Gainsborough	nS	12	1	4
North Cayuga	wS	4	18	5
South Walsingham	wS	11	12	103
Woodhouse	nS	8	6	19

Introduced Pine Sawfly, Diprion similis (Htg.)

Infestations of this insect increased from light in 1964 to medium intensity in 1965 on jack pine in Stamford Township. Defoliation of 15 to 30 needles at the base of the current years' growth occurred commonly and feeding in the form of small pits was observed frequently on the current year's growth. Numbers remained low on Scots pine in this area (Table 14).

TABLE 14
Summary of Introduced Pine Sawfly Larval Counts in Lake Erie District in 1964 and 1965

Location		Av. d.b.h.	Total no. o	
(township)	Host	in inches	1964	1965
Stamford	ĵР	3	104	250+
Stamford	scP	$L_{\mathbf{t}}$	8	126

Elm Leaf Beetle, Galerucella luteola (Schrank.)

Medium to heavy infestations of this introduced insect recurred on numerous white elm shade trees in the City of St. Catharines. Medium infestations persisted on 40 English elm trees at Port Stanley, and on several white elm ornamentals at the St. Thomas court house.

Spiny Witch-hazel Gall Aphid, Hamamelistes spinosus Shimer

A medium-to-heavy infestation of this insect occurred on several witch-hazel shrubs in the southern part of the village of Grand Bend in Bosanquet Township. Population levels were medium at Rock Glen Conservation Area near Arkona, and light in Bayham, Bosanquet, Charlotteville, Woodhouse and South Walsingham townships. The medium infestations that occurred on two witch-hazel shrubs at Spooky Hollow, Charlotteville Township, and on one shrub at the Rockway Gorge, Louth Township in 1964 subsided in 1965.

This insect causes spiny galls on the flower buds of witch-hazel. It was not found in the alternate stage on the secondary host, white birch.

On August 7 a mass collection of 250 witch-hazel galls was submitted to the laboratory for trans-shipment to England, for use in connection with biochemical studies.

Fall Webworm, Hyphantria cunea (Drury)

A general upward trend in infestations of this insect occurred throughout the district. Medium infestations occurred from Wallaceburg to Ojibway in Essex County, and low numbers were observed on many deciduous hosts at numerous other points in the district.

Heavy infestations persisted on Pelee Island where eastern choke cherry was the favourite host. A mass collection of late-stage larvae was made on the island for shipment to the Soviet Union for parasite studies.

Eastern Tent Caterpillar, Malacosoma americanum (F.)

Heavy infestations recurred along Highway 21 from Grand Bend to The Cut, and along roads in Pinery Provincial Park, Bosanquet Township (Table 15). The old tents on cherry shrubbery in this area were very unsightly in July and August.

Medium infestations of this insect occurred in the Newbury-Bothwell area, and on scattered clumps of trees in Bertie, Cayuga North and Dunn townships. Light infestations were observed at numerous points elsewhere in the district.

TABLE 15
Summary of Eastern Tent Caterpillar Colony Counts in Lake Erie District in 1964 and 1965

Location		No. of colonies	er sample unit
(township)	Sample unit	1964	1965
Bosanquet	1 mile of roadside	400+	400+
McGillivray	1 square chain plot	er Carrier 1:0	1
Moulton	1 mile of roadside	2	1
South Walsingham	1 mile of roadside	1	1
West Nissouri	1 square chain plot	5	4
Woodhouse	1 mile of roadside	1	2
Yarmouth	1 square chain plot	2	1
Zone	1 mile of roadside	5	3

White Pine Weevil, Pissodes strobi (Peck)

A marked decline in numbers of this pest occurred in the Turkey Point Forest Nursery in 1965 where control measures were carried out in midsummer, 1964. Control consisted of hand-clipping and burning infested leaders. Only one infested shoot was found in this 5-acre compartment in 1965. Low populations were recorded at sampling points in the district (Table 16).

TABLE 16

Summary of Damage by the White Pine Weevil in Lake Erie
District in 1964 and 1965

Location Av. d.b.h.		Per cent of wh	nite pine trees ested
(township)	in inches	1964	1.965
Charlotteville	2	9	1
South Walsingham	1	1	2
Thorold	2	3	3

TABLE 17

Summary of Miscellaneous Insects Collected in Lake
Erie District in 1965

Insect	Host(s)	Remarks
Acronicta interrupta Gn.	wE, Ch	Moderate on a domestic cherry tree near Florence, Dawn Twp., in association with A. interrupta elizabetha; light on elms south of Thamesville.
Acronicta lepusculina Gn.	Co, W	Heavy on 2-foot tree in St. Williams Nursery; moderate on willows on Pele Island; light on Walpole Island.
Adalia bipunctata Linn.	Haw	Common at Navy Hall Museum, Niagara- on-the-Lake.
Agonopteryx costimacula Clke.	Hoptree grape	Moderate at south tip of Pelee Island. Defoliation heavy at city park in city of Niagara Falls.
Altica ulmi Wood	wE	Heavy on one tree, DeCou House; light at McKay Forest.
Anisota rubicunda Fabr.	siM	Heavy on one tree in Harwich Twp.; light on tree in South Cayuga Twp.
Anomoea laticlavia Frost	bl Lo, trefoil	Adult feeding moderate at Turkey Point Nursery.
Antheraea polyphemus Cram.	bO, wO, sM	Six larvae from Dawn Twp. sent to Dr. Vaughan; light elsewhere.

Insect	Host(s)	Remarks
	black	Heavy mining recurred at Byng
Antispila nyssaefoliella Clem.	gum	Conservation Area; premature leaf
	guin	drop.
the boundary manallala Sayr	scP	Very common near Turkey Point Golf
Aphrophora parallela Say	501	Club.
Americanthia sumasangentella	eC	Light to medium on shaded trees in
Argyresthia aureoargentella Brower		Caradoc Twp.
	eC	Very heavy on a few trees in Yarmou
Argyresthia sp.	00	Two gravel pit: damage conspicuous
A	eC	Light to medium near Strathoy, Cara-
Argyresthia thuiella Pack	•	doc Twp., in association with \underline{A} .
		aureoargentella.
Angeltania minetuhana Kft	wP	Remain medium to heavy at Bethel
Argyrotaenia pinatubana Kft.		Park in Aldborough Twp. Often 4 or
		5 tubes on tips of current growth
		are quite noticeable.
M debilie Com	trefoil	Infestations remain at Backus Tract
Atomacera debilis Say	OT OT OTT	Point Pelee and other points.
	tree-of-	Heavy infestations at Scudder,
Atteva aurea Fitch	heaven	Pelee Island in 1964 declined to
	Heaven	light intensity in 1965 as most
		shrubs had been cut down.
	Bu	Six larvae from Fingal sent Dr.
Automeris io Fabr.	Du	Smith.
	bladder-	Fruits of bladdernut heavily infest
Cecidomyia sp.	nut, Wi,	at Pinery Park; moderate recurrence
	Hazelnut	in hazelnut fruits at Spooky Hollow
real principal of the contraction	12 12 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13	Light in Canborough and Woodhouse
Choristoneura fumiferana Clem.	ns, ws	twps.
STREET, I WITH THE PARTY OF STREET	scP	Light in Euphemia Twp.
Choristoneura pinus Freem.		Further studies on life history at
Chrysoclista linneella Clerck	Eur. linden	St. Catharines.
TELLE , SE OF THE TOTAL STATE OF		Medium at River Canard, Anderdon To
Chrysomela sp. (prob. scripta)	Co	and Erieau, Harwich Twp.; larvae
	*	also fed on petioles.
MAKAN THE THE THE THE THE THE	***	Medium on lower crown of tree in
Datana contracta Wlk.	wO	Pinery Provincial Park.
69449 No. 200 HOUSE HOUSE	Uorr	Light near Hagersville.
Datana drexeli Hy. Edw.	Haw	Moderate on shrub in Thorold Twp.;
Datana perspicua G. & R.	Su	recurred near Port Rowan but
		declined to light intensity; light
		near Thamesville.
Land and the second second second	D0	Light at Turkey Point Nursery and
Diapheromera femorata Say	Ba, ro	Point Pelee nature trail; one adul
		at latter point parasitized.
		Moderate on plant on the Backus
Diplolepsis rosae (Linn.)	wild	Mill nature trail.
	rose	Heavy on lower branches of two tre
Epinotia aceriella Clem.	sM	at John E Pearce Provincial Park.
		at John E. Pearce Provincial Park.

TABLE 16 (continued)

Insect	Host(s)	Remarks
Epinotia sp. (prob. walkerana)	Hazelnut	Heavy at Vanessa Conservation Area; moderate numbers recurred at Spooky Hollow.
Erannis tiliaria Harr.	wE	Further marked decline; only at two points.
Euphorbia inda Linn.	cE	Numerous on ornamentals near Rondeau Park.
Exoteleia dodecella Linn.	scP	Light on plantings in Bayham and Romney twps.
Exoteleia pinifoliella Cham.	jР	Remain light to moderate on several treesat Allanburg, Thorold Twp.
Fenusa ulmi Sund.	wE	Mining heavy on ornamentals near Rodman Hall, St. Catharines; light at St. Thomas court house.
Gossyparia spuria (Modeer)	rE, wE	Heavy on tree at DeCou House, Grantham Twp.; light at McKay Forest.
Gretchena delicatana Heinr.	horn- beam	Rock Glen Conservation Area.
Halisidota caryae Harr.	Ba, Bu, Wi	Large colony and parasitized eggs at Backus Tract; light at Rock Glen Park, Fingal and other points.
Hippodamia convergens Guer.	cE, Co	Heavy on Chinese elm shade trees near Rondeau Park; light at Erieau.
Holcocera immaculella McD.	rP, Su	Heavy in fruits of sumac near Port Burwell; light elsewhere.
Hormaphis hamamelidis (Fitch)	Wi	Moderate at Rock Glen Conservation Area,
Hydria prunivorata Ferg.	pCh	Heavy on tree at Reynolds Tract in Howard Twp.; on tree in Pelham Twp.
Ichthyura inclusa Hbn.	tA, Go	Moderate at South Woodslee, Rocheste Twp. and on Walpole Island; light at the Reynolds Tract in Howard Twp.
Lithocolletis hamameliella Busck.	Wi	Light at Spooky Hollow, Port Burwell County plantation 21 in Norfolk County, and other points.
Lithocolletis ostensackenella Fitch	bl Lo	Heavy near Compartment X-6 in St. Williams Mursery.
Lithocolletis salicifoliella Chamb.	tA	Light at Reynolds Tract and the Backus Mill nature trail.
Macrophya punctumalbum L.	Privet	Further studies on life history at St. Catharines.
Nematus ventralis Say Neurotoma fasciata (Nort.)	tA blCh, pCh	Medium on two trees at Spooky Hollow Heavy on pin cherry at Turkey Point Nursery; light on 5 branches of mature tree at Pinafore Park; light at other points; numbers increased over three previous years.

TABLE 16 (continued)

Insect	Host(s)	Remarks
Nymphalis antiopa Linn.	Hack, wE, W	Moderate on 25-foot white elm near Aylmer; light at several points; two extension calls; numbers higher than three previous summers.
Olethreutidae (prob. Laspeyresia sp.)	scP	Common in lower stems of Christmas trees in Newbury area in early June.
Orgyia leucostigma J. E. Smith	S, M, Sy	Caused severe defoliation of small numbers of trees in Gosfield North, Mersea and Ekfrid townships. Light
Paleacrita vernata Peck	wE	damage at several other locations. Only one larva; considerable decline over 1964 populations.
Pantographa limata G. & R.	Ва	Larval populations caused light to severe defoliation in clumps of host trees at several locations in the district.
Papilio cresphontes Cram.	hoptree	Seven larvae on shrub near Rondeau Park; light at Point Pelee National Park and on Pelee Island.
Pemphigus populi-transversus Riley	Co	Moderate on a few trees on east side of Pelee Island.
Petrova albicapitana Busck.	jΡ	Over 100 nodules on one tree near the canal in Niagara Falls.
Pikonema alaskensis (Roh.)	wS	Remained light in small park in North Cayuga Twp.; rare in Norfolk County.
Pineus strobi (Htg.)	wP	Heavy on a few trees at Bethel Park, Aldborough Twp.
Plagiodera versicolora Laich.	M	Heavy defoliation on shrub in Crow- land Twp.
Polygonia interrogationis Fabr.	wE, Hack	Moderate on solitary trees in Seneca Twp., Holiday Beach Provincial Park, and on Pelee Island; light elsewhere
Pristiphora geniculata (Htg.)	sMo	Population increase over other years Medium on two trees at McKay Forest; light at Niagara Falls.
Profenusa thomsoni (Konow) Proteoteras aesculana Riley	wB siM _o moM	Light at Byron Bog. Tip borers medium to heavy at Frechette Section, St. Williams Nursery in mid-June; fruits of mountain
forting Use alasting will		maple at Spooky Hollow infested in early September.
Pulicalvaria piceaella Kft. Schizura concinna A. & S. Scolytus multistriatus Marsh.	nS Wa wE, cE	Moderate at Wainfleet Twp. park. One colony in Effingham Valley. Remain high throughout the district; adults numerous in early June. Many Chinese elm ornamentals near Rondeau Park were attacked.

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TABLE 16 (continued)

Insect	Host(s)	Remarks
Sibine stimulea Clemens	Ba, Hack	New provincial record; solitary larvae at Point Pelee nature trail.
Spilochalcis melana Burks.	trefoil	First Canadian record of this parasite. Chalcids reared from material submitted in 1963.
Systena marginalis (Illiger)	bur 0	Heavy skeletonizing by beetles near Hillman, Mersea Twp. A new record in Ontario.
Tremex columba (Linn.)	WE	Large numbers of adults on trees at South Thorold died when trapped by ovipositors.
Trichiocampus viminalis (Fall.)	Co, 1Po	Moderate to severe defoliation in Bosanquet, South Dorchester, Thorol and Walpole twps.
Vespamia pini Kell.	scP	Light on all shade trees at Rodman Hall in St. Catharines; light at other points.