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## FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY **PEST REPORT**

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

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STATUS OF THE BLACK-HEADED BUDWORM ON SOUTHERN VANCOUVER

ISLAND, JULY, 1972

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The black-headed budworm, Acleris gloverana, remains epidemic in many hemlock and hemlock-balsam stands between 1,500 and 3,000 feet elevation on the southern third of Vancouver Island. In fact, the epidemic has expanded.

The exceptionally cool, wet weather in June apparently slowed egg hatch and larval development, particularly at the higher elevations. At the end of June budworm larvae above 2,000 feet elevation were still small (in their first and second instars), and there was practically no evidence of feeding on the foliage. At the lower elevations of the commercial hemlock stands, larvae were mostly second or third with some in the fourth instar but only faint foliage discoloration was detectable.

Larval sampling up to July 10 indicates that a moderate population persists in many areas that were moderately to severely defoliated in 1971, and a moderate to heavy population is present in a number of stands that were only lightly defoliated.

Generally the black-headed budworm larvae appear to be healthy. No disease was found in any of 15 larval collections submitted to specialists at the Insect Pathology Research Institute,

On southern Vancouver Island it is predicted that defoliation in most of the region south of Cowichan Lake will be similar to or somewhat less than in 1971: an increase to moderate and severe defoliation is expected in a number of stands north of Cowichan Lake. Specific information on the boundaries of the black-headed budworm epidemic and intensity of defoliation will be available after the seventh of August when aerial surveys of defoliation damage will be completed.