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## FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY PEST REPORT

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

July 4, 1973.

### BLACKHEADED BUDWORM INFESTATION

#### NORTH VANCOUVER ISLAND

H. Peter Koot

The blackheaded budworm is again epidemic throughout many of the western hemlock forests of northern Vancouver Island. However, fewer numbers of larvae were found this year in beating samples in the Neroutsos Inlet - Victoria Lake - Benson Lake areas, than in 1972; an average of 180 larvae per three-tree beating sample as compared to 450 in 1972.

Moderate populations of budworm were also found in reproduction and semi-mature hemlock stands between Beaver Cove and Holberg. There was an average of 125 larvae per sample in these areas, as compared to only 10 in 1972. One collection at Coal Harbour produced 500 larvae.

Blackheaded budworm feeding damage is not yet evident, even at low elevations, because of their small size (mostly 2nd instar, June 25-29). Foliage discoloration may become visible following mid-July, after larvae have increased in size, and consumed more foliage.

Spray operations against the budworm in valleys at the south end of Neroutsos Inlet and in the Benson Lake areas were completed by the end of June.

If climatic factors are conducive to the pest's development and no disease develops, light to moderate defoliation can be expected in the unsprayed areas of Neroutsos Inlet - Port Alice and in the reproduction and semi-mature hemlock stands between Holberg and Beaver Cove.