



PEST REPORT

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CANADA

October 20, 1976.

WESTERN BLACKHEADED BUDWORM INFESTATION IN THE BLUE RIVER FOREST RANGER DISTRICT

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During aerial surveys in August, moderate defoliation of western hemlock was observed on more than 6 400 ha (16,000 acres) in three areas near Blue River. A ground survey on August 18, when feeding had ceased, revealed that the blackheaded budworm, *Acleris gloverana*, appeared to be the major defoliator, although a few cocoons of hemlock sawfly, *Neodiprion* sp. and moulted skins of saddleback looper, *Ectropis crepuscularia* and filament bearer looper, *Nematocampa filamentaria*, were also present.

On September 27 observation of numerous blackheaded budworm eggs in these defoliated stands further substantiated the conclusion that this was the major pest. Two 18-inch branches were collected from each of ten trees to determine the overwintering egg population. Numbers of eggs per branch ranged from 5 to 258 and averaged 75, indicating a high population leading to a prediction of heavy defoliation by blackheaded budworm in these stands in 1977.