

LIBRARY
PACIFIC FOREST RESEARCH CENTRE
OCT - 5 1977
506 W. BURNSIDE RD.
VICTORIA, B.C. V8Z 1M5
CANADA

PEST REPORT

Pacific Forest Research Centre • 506 West Burnside Rd. • Victoria, B.C. • V8Z 1M5

October 4, 1977.

A LARCH LOOPER IN WEST KOOTENAY

Robert D. Erickson

Some 10,000 acres of western larch from 3,000' to 4,000' elevation in the West Kootenay are presently an abnormal red-brown colour. The discolored foliage extends from Balfour to Kokanee Park along the west arm of Kootenay Lake, from South Slovan to Castlegar along the Kootenay River, west of Castlegar along Blueberry Creek, from Passmore to Roseberry along the Slovan River and Slovan Lake, and along Arrow Lakes from Nakusp to Deer Park.

The discoloration is caused by the feeding of a small looper, probably *Semiothisa* sp., which is currently in the overwintering pupal stage.

The larvae began feeding on the larch foliage early in August. About the middle of August areas of defoliation were showing up as a straw colour, visible from a distance. The tops of the defoliated trees had a "silvery" appearance, a result of myriads of small threads spun by the larvae. Since the first week in September the foliage in the infestations has been a red-brown colour, obvious from a distance.

The larch trees defoliated this year will not suffer any mortality. However, if 1978 is drier than normal, and heavy defoliation occurs again, then some immature western larch may develop permanent damage.