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PEST REPORT

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

June 2, 1978.

LARCH CASEBEARER IN KAMLOOPS FOREST DISTRICT, 1978

Richard J. Andrews

The larch casebearer, an introduced pest, was found for the first time in British Columbia in 1966, extending a few miles north of the International Boundary from Christina Lake east to Yahk. By 1968, it had invaded most western larch stands below 2,500 feet elevation in the Nelson Forest District.

In 1968, larch casebearer was recorded on western larch at 3,000 to 3,500 feet elevation along the Kamloops District boundary on Anarchist Mountain. Spread of the pest after this date was slow, but in 1976 a few casebearers were found near Heckman Creek west of the Monashee Range, well separated from its known southern limits. In 1977, an infestation appeared in the Anarchist Summit larch stands and increased populations were found near Shuttleworth Creek east of Okanagan Falls, in the Cherryville area, and a few were observed at Lavington.

In 1978, a new westerly extension was found in Cedar Valley near Falkland and at 3,000 feet elevation along Carmi Road east of Penticton. The Shuttleworth Creek population is now in infestation proportions and the Anarchist Mountain infestation remains heavy. Populations in the Cherryville area have increased several fold and light to moderate browning of western larch is predicted at scattered locations. With the rapid build-up of the larch casebearer populations near Cherryville, extensive low elevation larch stands in the Sugar - Mabel lakes area, Enderby and Salmon Arm District may become infested in the next few years.

Biological control agents have been introduced by the Canadian Forestry Service to the larch casebearer populations in the adjoining Nelson Forest District.