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# PEST REPORT

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

July 17, 1980

RELEASE OF THE LARCH SAWFLY PARASITE

OLESIKAMPE BENEFACTOR IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

JULY, 1980

Colin S. Wood

In an effort to establish this small parasitic wasp in British Columbia, about 465 adult parasites were released in three larch sawfly (Pristiphora erichsonii) infested western larch stands. The releases in early July were just south of Sparwood, near Olsen between Sparwood and Hosmer, and north of Fernie between Fairy Creek and Mitz Creek in the Nelson Forest Region. The parasites had been reared in the insectary at Victoria from collections made in Alberta in 1979. It was the second release of sawfly parasites in B.C., the first with very few adults was near Sparwood in 1978. These are long term control efforts and it is still too early to assess them.

Defoliation of larch stands in the Elk River Valley area of the Nelson Forest Region has occurred annually since 1977. In 1980 defoliation is widespread from Grove Lake and Michel Creek west to Sparwood, and from Fernie to just east of Elko. Localized populations also occur at Dutch Creek and in the Yahk and Kootenay River valleys. Sawfly populations are expected to continue to increase and expand westwards in 1981.