

Canada  
PFRC  
Pest rept  
1984  
June 6

Environment Canada  
Environnement Canada  
Forestry Service  
Service des Forêts

Library

LIBRARY  
PACIFIC FOREST RESEARCH CENTRE  
JUN 19 1984  
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

June 6, 1984

## Discoloration of Western Larch in the East Kootenay

H. Peter Koot, Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Recent aerial and ground surveys in southern portions of the East Kootenay revealed foliage discoloration of larch on more than 40 000 ha, from Kootenay Lake east to Elko and from Kimberley south to the Canada-U.S.A. border (see map). The two principle causal agents appear to be larch casebearer, Coleophora laricella and larch needle blight, probably Meria laricis. Further collections will be made when the fungus matures. In many areas both pests are present, with the larch casebearer generally accounting for about 90% of the damage. An exception is about 600 ha along lower Kootenay Lake and at Arrow Creek near Creston, where needle blight dominates.

The heaviest, most spectacular defoliation<sup>1</sup> by larch casebearer occurred in the immediate vicinity of Cranbrook, the Jaffray-Elko-Kikomun Creek area, and along the west side of Kooconusa Lake from Wardner south to Newgate including Gold Creek. Areas of light and moderate defoliation include Summit Creek, Sanca Creek to Sirdar and Creston to Yahk in the Kootenay Lake District; and near Wycliffe, Norbury Lakes, northwest of Wardner, lower Wigwam River and north of Elk River in the Cranbrook Forest District.

Feeding has terminated for the present as the casebearer is in the non-feeding pupal stage. The adult moth emerges in June to lay eggs, which will hatch by August at which time small larvae will resume feeding causing some minor defoliation before overwintering as third-instar larvae. In needle cast infected stands, some additional discoloration may occur in June as needles turn from light yellow-green to reddish-brown.

Unless subjected to repeated abnormal defoliations, larch trees usually recover rapidly. A second flush of foliage usually saves larch from significant injury except for an undetermined amount of growth loss.

\* \* \* \* \*

- <sup>1</sup>% of defoliation:  
1-25 - light  
26-50 - moderate  
51+ - heavy

# NELSON FOREST REGION

0 20 40 km

Areas of  
defoliation by  
larch casebearer  
as determined by  
aerial surveys,  
May 31, 1984.

