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PEST REPORT

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

June 1985

Black Army Cutworm British Columbia, 1985

C.S. Wood, Chief Ranger
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Seedling mortality, bud damage, delayed planted schedules and defoliation of herbaceous material caused by the cutworm Actebia fennica occurred for the fourth consecutive year in the Prince Rupert Region, and in the Cariboo Region for the second year. Previously active populations in the Prince George and Kamloops regions were not evident this year.

Populations were more numerous and widespread in the Prince Rupert Region than in 1984, affecting seedlings at 24 recently burned planting sites in 14 areas in the Morice Bulkley and Lakes TSAs. Areas affected varied from numerous areas of 10 ha or more in the 'Swiss' fire to 1 ha pockets in cutblocks. Some mortality and light to severe feeding of 1985 planted seedlings occurred in scattered pockets at Parrot Lakes (Swiss Fire) and Poplar Lake, and light bud mortality occurred on 1984 planted seedlings at Walcott and Betty Lake. Feeding was completed by mid-June. Pheromone baited traps set out in 17 of the sites in 1984 attracted an average of 12 male cutworm moths per trap (range 2-27). The numbers of moths trapped relative to current feeding is still being investigated; numbers of prepupal larvae and pupae per 225 cm² duff sample ranged from 1 to 60 (avg. 30).

In the Cariboo Region, at Rollie and Cedar creeks and near Boswell Lake in the Quesnel Lake area, planting was halted because of high numbers of cutworm larvae.

Pheromone baited traps will be utilized in all affected areas and other recent burns to monitor adult populations trends. The incidence of parasitism and viral infection in populations from the Cariboo and Prince Rupert regions are currently being determined. Forecasts for 1986 will be made at a later date.

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