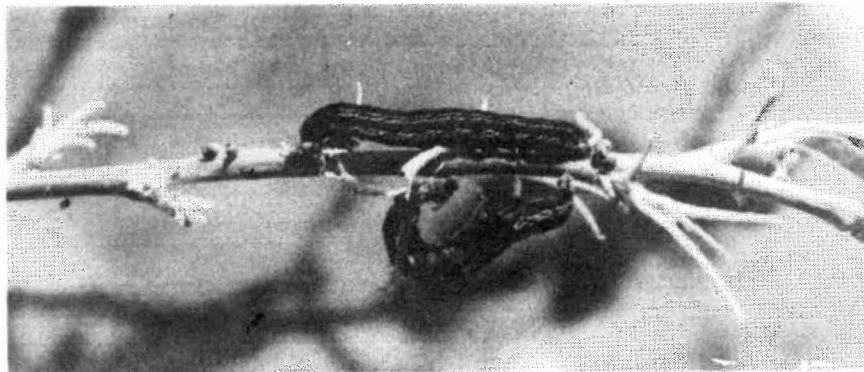


Black Army Cutworm

PEST OF CONIFER SEEDLINGS

The black army cutworm (*Actebia fennica*) was for some time known only as a sporadic pest of herbaceous agricultural crops in central North America. Recently it has been recognized also as a pest of newly planted conifer seedlings in western and eastern Canada. The continuing rapid increase in reforestation in British Columbia with seedlings on burned areas will further increase its importance. Major epidemics of black army cutworm, irrespective of hosts, have occurred at about 20-year intervals, each lasting up to four years. The current epidemic in the Province has persisted for three years and may continue into 1976 at one or two new locations.

THE DESTRUCTIVE STAGE is a black larva with two double white lines on either side of the body; it is about ¼ inch long early in May, attaining 1½ inches early in June.



LARVAE actual size

DETECTION

Where timely control becomes necessary, **early detection is of first importance.**

Observations should begin in spring as soon as patches of ground are clear of snow, by which time the buds of broadleaved vegetation swell, and the small cutworms begin feeding.

Look in new clearings, chiefly areas of wildfire or those burned preparatory to planting. Late in the summer or early in the fall, moths, the adult cutworms, are attracted to soils for egg-laying where there has been a fire either that year or the preceding year or two. (Age and intensity of the burn, in addition to other site factors, affect the density of volunteer herbaceous vegetation. Defoliation of conifer seedlings is likely to be significant only where alternative vegetation is sparse.)

Look for evidence of feeding on the broadleaved plants, even to hollowed out buds. While the weather is cool the larvae become active an hour or so after sunrise and are readily seen on the ground or feeding on the vegetation. Later in the year larvae hide in the soil during the warmest part of the day and come out to feed at night.

If cutworm larvae are numerous and there is little volunteer vegetation, **IMMEDIATE CONTROL MEASURES MAY BE DESIRABLE.**



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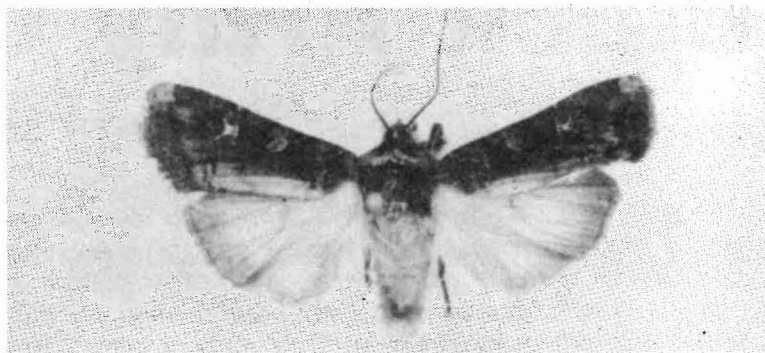
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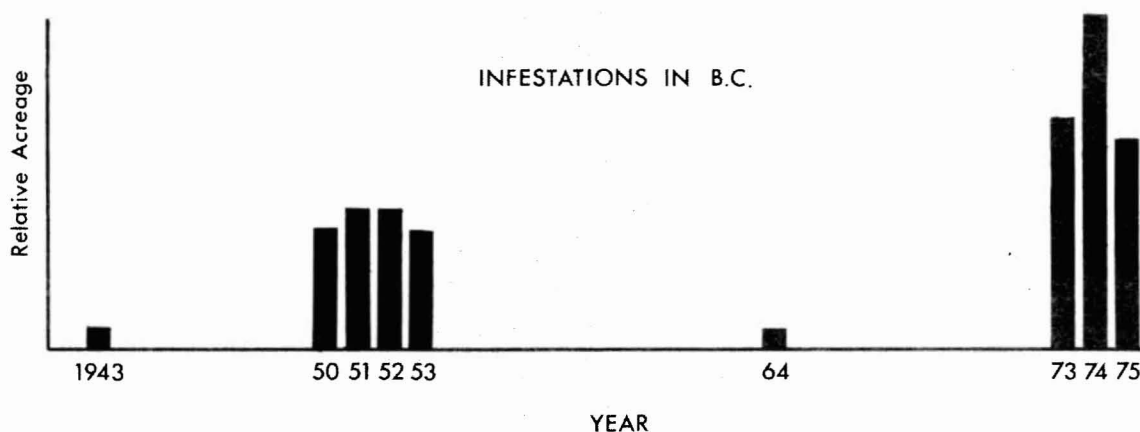
Service
des Forêts

Pacific Forest Research Centre
506 West Burnside Road
Victoria, B.C.

EARLY WARNING METHOD - To provide quantitative data on moth abundance a synthetic pheromone is available which attracts male cutworm moths to traps during mid-July and August. This provides a practical tool to predict which areas may be infested the following spring.



MALE MOTH - 2 times actual size



PROTECTION

1. **ELIMINATE SLASH BURNING** on sites immediately before or during period of a potential or known cutworm epidemic.
2. **DELAY PLANTING** of infested sites, during outbreak years, until late in June, when cutworm feeding has ceased for the year.
3. If early spring examinations reveal an abundance of cutworm larvae among recently planted seedlings, it may be advisable to **SPRAY WITH TRICHLORFON (DYLOX)**.

TIMING: Spray immediately after the cutworms become active in the spring (larvae ¼-inch long) before they have seriously damaged the broadleaved hosts and moved to the conifer seedlings. Spray when the larvae are exposed, since TRICHLORFON is more effective as a contact spray.

APPLICATORS: Small, accessible infestations may be treated with mistblowers on the ground. Larger or numerous scattered infestations would require the use of aircraft.

RATE OF APPLICATION: 20-30 oz per 100 gal water, 1-3 lb actual per acre.

WARNING: Follow directions on package label. TRICHLORFON MAY BE HARMFUL if swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through skin and eyes. WASH THOROUGHLY WITH SOAP AND WARM WATER AFTER HANDLING.

DO NOT CONTAMINATE WATERWAYS