

ANNUAL DISTRICT REPORT

YUKON TERRITORY

PRAIRIES REGION 1970

by

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INTRODUCTION

A near complete collapse of the outbreak of large aspen tortrix occurred in the Yukon in 1970. Damage was restricted to two widely separated areas. Wood borers caused damage throughout the District. Poplar serpentine miner caused foliage discoloration of aspen in southeastern and southwestern Yukon.

Needle rust infections of spruce were generally light. Infections by pine needle casts were noted in several areas. Damage by aspen shoot blight was widespread.

INSECT CONDITIONS

Large Aspen Tortrix, Choristoneura conflictana (Wlk.)

Population levels of this insect made a further decline throughout the Yukon in 1970. In the Dezadeash Valley, populations of large aspen tortrix were low and only a trace to light defoliation was observed. At Beaver Creek, populations declined to a trace and caused scattered pockets of light defoliation. There was no defoliation along the Klondike Highway between Whitehorse and Stewart Crossing, and between Ross River and Watson Lake. No new outbreaks were observed in the District.

Poplar Serpentine Miner, Phyllocnistis populiella Cham.

Populations of this insect remained high in southwestern Yukon, while decreasing in the southeast.

In the Watson Lake and Ross River areas discoloration was light. Light damage was also observed at Carcross. Severe foliage damage occurred at Beaver Creek and west to the Alaska border.

Wood Borers

The Oregon fir sawyer, Monochamus oregonensis (Lec.), was observed in numerous locations throughout the southern Yukon. Populations remained high in the logging sites near Watson Lake.

Populations of the borer, Saperda sp. were widely distributed throughout the range of aspen in the Yukon. This borer makes repeated attacks in the butt and root collar section of the tree causing weakness to a point where windthrow occurs. Moderate damage of this type occurred near McQuesten, along the Mayo-Dawson Highway.

DISEASE CONDITIONS

Comandra Blister Rust, Cronartium comandrae Pk.

Comandra rust continued to cause mortality of regeneration and sapling pine throughout the southern Yukon. Severe damage was noted 43 miles east of Whitehorse.

Pine Needle Casts

Needle casts caused foliage loss in several areas of the southern Yukon. The species, Davisomycella ampla (J.J. Davis) Darker, caused severe needle loss 16 miles east of Carcross. Lophodermium sp. caused heavy needle loss of regeneration pine 62 miles north of Watson Lake. Hypodermella sp. caused light damage 100 miles west of Watson Lake and near Jakes Corner. Phaeoseptoria contortae Parmelee & Hiratsuka, caused light damage 101 miles west of Watson Lake. The species, Lophodermella montivaga Petr. caused light damage 62 miles north of Watson Lake and at mile 706 of the Alaska Highway. This species, Gloeocoryneum cinereum (Dearn.) Weindlmayr, caused light damage 62 miles north of Watson Lake and at mile 1 of the Klondike Highway.

Aspen Shoot Blight, Venturia macularis (Fr.) E. Muell & V. Arx.

Light damage by shoot blight was observed throughout the District. Severe damage to a semi-mature stand of aspen was observed 17 miles east of Dawson City. Repeated infections have caused clumping of twigs and top kill.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY INSECTS AND DISEASES

Causal Agent	Host	Remarks
<u>Insect</u>		
Spruce gall aphids, <u>Adelges</u> spp.	W. spruce B. spruce	Light damage common. Severe damage around Kluane Lake.
A twig borer, <u>Agrilus</u> sp.	Willow	Collected near Ross River.
Aphidae	T. aspen	Medium and high popula- tions throughout the District.
Cone maggots, <u>Cecidomyid</u> sp.	W. spruce	Infested cones throughout the District.

Other Noteworthy Insects and Diseases - Cont'd.

Causal Agent	Host	Remarks
Cone worm, <u>Laspeyresia youngana</u> (Kft.)	W. spruce	Damaged cones in several locations.
Poplar leaf miner, <u>Lithocolletis</u> sp.	T. aspen	Light damage near Champagne.
Willow leaf miner, <u>Lyonetia</u> sp.	Willow	Moderate damage near Watson Lake.
Pitch nodule maker, <u>Petrova</u> sp.	Ip. pine	Light damage 63 miles north of Watson Lake.
Weevil, <u>Pissodes canadensis</u> Hopk.	Ip. pine	Low populations 43 miles east of Whitehorse.
Carpenter worm, <u>Prionoxystus robiniae</u> (Peck)	B. poplar	One collection near Ross River.
Spruce bud midge, <u>Rhabdophaga swainei</u> Felt.	W. spruce	Light damage common in the Yukon.
A borer, <u>Saperda populnea moesta</u> Lec.	B. poplar	Collected near Ross River.
Horntails, <u>Urocerus gigas flavicornis</u> (Fab.)	Ip. pine	High populations near Watson Lake.
<u>Disease</u>		
Spruce needle rust, <u>Chrysomyxa ledi</u> de Bary	W. spruce	Present along the Canol Road near Johnson's Crossing.
Spruce needle rust, <u>Chrysomyxa ledicola</u> Lagerh.	W. spruce	Light infections common. Moderate at Johnson's Crossing.
Spruce needle rust, <u>Chrysomyxa woroninii</u> Tranz.	W. spruce B. spruce	Damage decreased from 1969. Light infection on Midnight Dome near Dawson City.

Other Noteworthy Insects and Diseases - Cont'd.

Causal Agent	Host	Remarks
Western gall rust, <u>Endocronartium harknessii</u> (J.P.Moore) Hiratsuka (= <u>Peridermium harknessii</u> J. P. Moore)	Lp. pine	Severe infection 63 miles north of Watson Lake.
Leaf rust, <u>Pucciniastrum sparsum</u> (Wint.) Fisch.	Alpine bearberry	Collected at Burwash Flats.
Tar spot, <u>Rhytisma salicinum</u> (Pers.) Fr.	Willow	Severe infection in the Watson Lake area.
Shoot blight of balsam poplar, <u>Venturia populina</u> (Vuill.) Fabric.	B. poplar	Severe infection along Bonanza Creek 5 miles south of Dawson City.