



FIDS PEST REPORT 95-7

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## SATIN MOTH IN THE ROBSON VALLEY

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The satin moth, *Leucoma salicis*, in conjunction with the forest tent caterpillar, *Malacosoma disstria*, has conspicuously defoliated mostly trembling aspen throughout the Robson Valley (Map 1).

An estimated 6700 ha of trembling aspen and black cottonwood have been severely defoliated from McBride to Valemount. Determining the exact proportions of feeding that can be attributed to each caterpillar is difficult. Random surveys of the infested stands indicated that approximately 25% of the larvae were satin moth. The earliest aspen defoliation in the valley was probably due to satin moth feeding as it is active earlier in the spring than the tent caterpillar.

Satin moth larvae are easily distinguished from the tent caterpillar by the large shiny yellowish blotches appearing along the back. Satin moth larvae were noted feeding on aspen, black cottonwood and willow in the McBride area. Feeding by the satin moth will finish around the middle of June as larvae were starting to pupate in the first few days of June. Newly hatched larvae will appear again in August and skeletonize foliage for about two weeks before spinning their hibernacula for overwintering.

The satin moth's preferred host is exotic poplars especially white poplar and is usually a pest of shade, park or windbreak trees. In the Robson Valley the main hosts are trembling aspen and black cottonwood. The satin moth is a more serious pest than the tent caterpillar as repeated severe defoliation can cause tree mortality.

The satin moth is native to Europe and Asia and was accidentally introduced to North America in the early 1900's. The first confirmed sightings were in southwestern British Columbia and New England in 1920. Last year was the first detection of the satin moth in the Prince George Forest Region. Since then the moth has spread throughout most of southern British Columbia.

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| STATISTICS: |      |       |
|-------------|------|-------|
|             | Ha:  | Freq: |
| Severe:     | 6664 | 114   |
| Total:      | 6664 | 114   |

Natural Resources Canada  
Canadian Forest Service  
Forest Insect and Disease Survey



Scale 1: 4000000

Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic

Map Produced by GIS: 23 Jun 95

Map 1: Areas Defoliated by Satin Moth in Robson Valley, 1995.