

GYPSY MOTH IN THE MARITIMES

Egg-masses and pupal remnants of the gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) have been found in the Maritimes in 1981 for the first time in 45 years. Although the numbers were low, the discovery raises concern that this voracious feeder of hardwoods and to a lesser degree of conifers could become a permanent addition to our list of forest pests.

In New Brunswick, all egg-masses were found in Charlotte County: 6 near Milltown, across from a mill at Woodland, Maine; 1 near Pennfield; 1 near Beaver Harbour and 1 on Grand Manan Island (Fig. 1). In Nova Scotia, an egg-mass was found in the town of Yarmouth on November 24 (not indicated on map). Egg-mass searching was conducted as a joint operation of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey of the Maritimes Forest Research Centre and the Plant Quarantine Division of Agriculture Canada. The search was widespread but the effort was concentrated in areas of high adult male catches.

An adult male pheromone trapping program, again a joint effort of the two organizations, has been conducted annually since 1971, when gypsy moth was becoming a problem in neighboring Maine. Males have been trapped each year and generally in increasing numbers. The results of the 1981 program, when 1023 traps were placed in the Maritimes Region, are summarized in Figure 2.

The source of both egg-masses and male adults is the subject of speculation but since no defoliation by the gypsy moth has been observed in the Maritimes this is taken as an indication that a local population, if it exists, is presently at a very low level.

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

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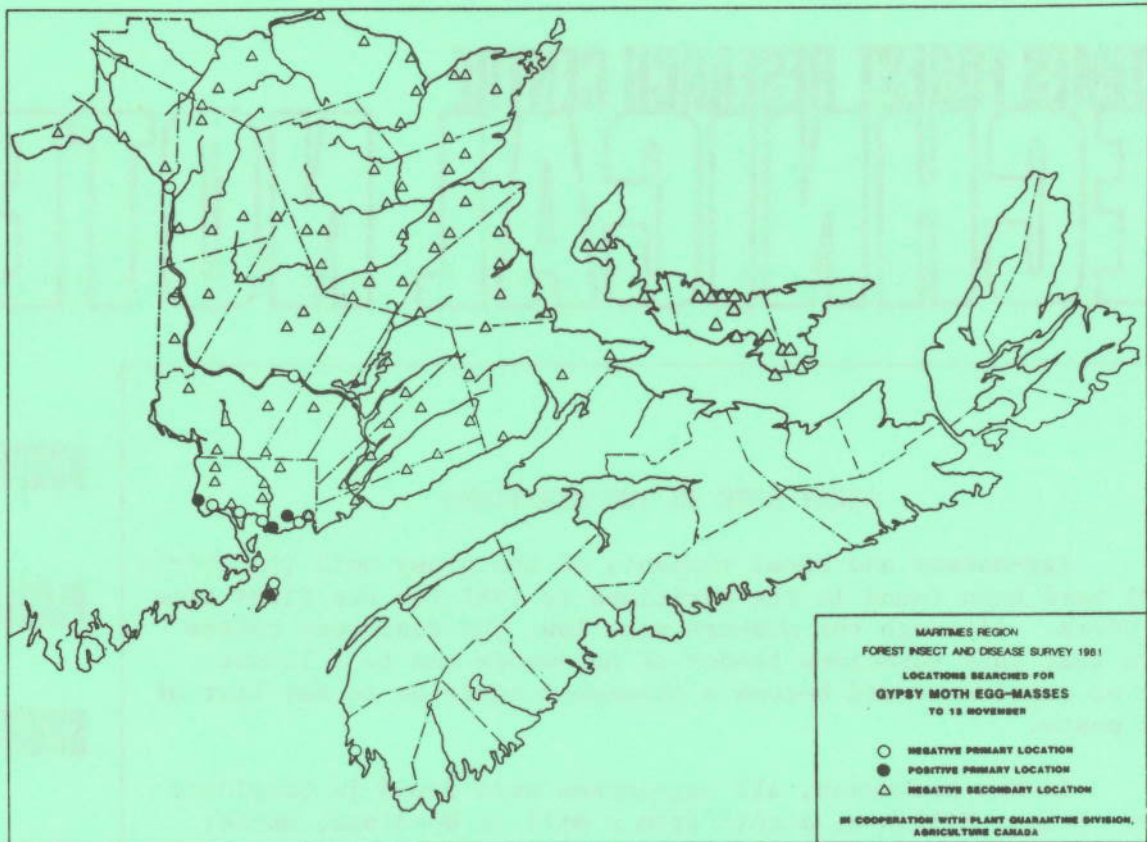


Figure 1.

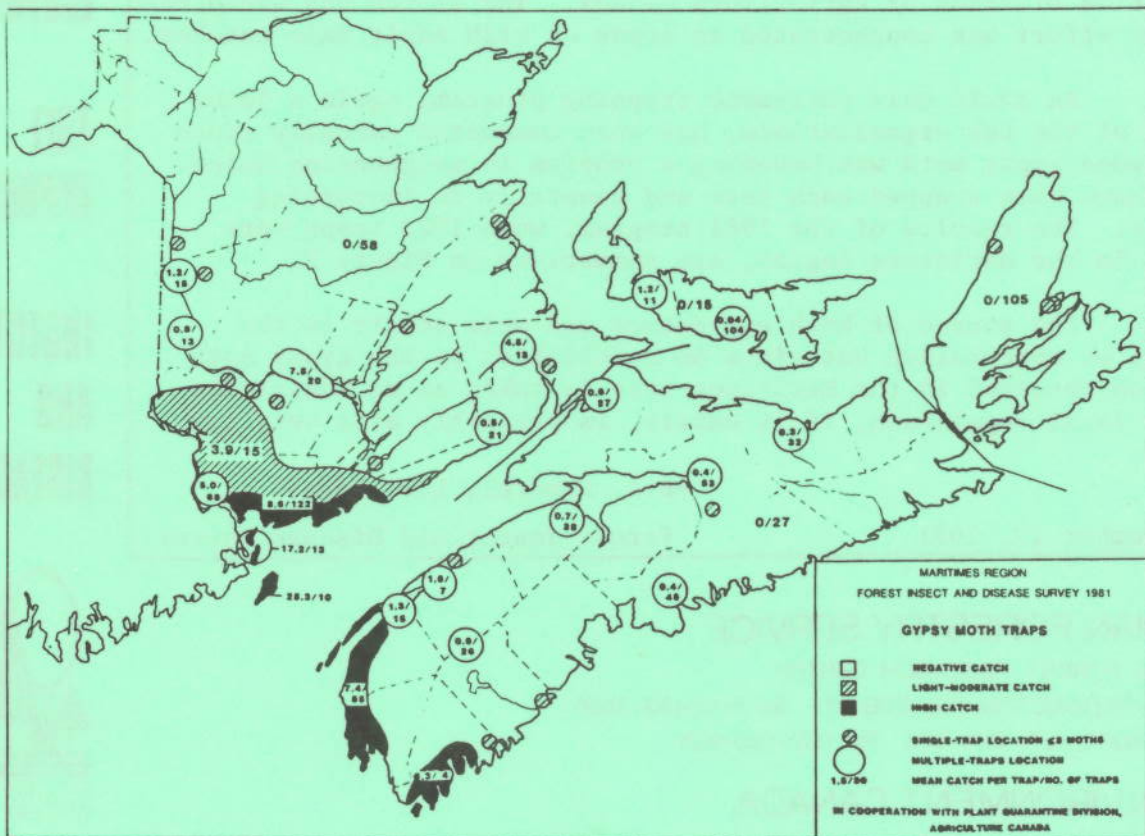


Figure 2.