

OBSERVATIONS ON SOME AUSTRALIAN FOREST INSECTS

28. INSECTS ATTACKING *LANTANA CAMARA* L. IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

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INTRODUCTION

The possible biological control of *Lantana camara* in State Forests of New South Wales has been of interest to the Forestry Commission of that State for some years.

During preliminary considerations of the possibility of controlling this exotic plant species with insects, a limited survey of those species then attacking plants growing in the Central Coast areas of the State was made, to determine the extent of damage in that area by the species concerned.

The thirty-three species listed below were observed to feed on *L. camara*, but these observations should be regarded as preliminary only, because of the limited time available for this study. None of the species appeared to exert any degree of visible control of the host plants on the Central Coast.

Wilson (1960) gives some information on those exotic insect species previously introduced to Australia to be released on *Lantana* spp.

DIPTERA

AGROMYZIDAE

Ophiomyia lantanae (Frogg.)

This species mines in the pith surrounding the seeds of *Lantana* spp., and sometimes enters and destroys the seed.

HEMIPTERA

ALEYRODIDAE

?Trialeurodes vaporariorum Westw.

Large numbers of nymphs at times occur on leaves, particularly when plants are growing in shaded or damp situations.

APHIDIDAE

Aphis gossypii Glov.

The tender new growth of plants is attacked by this species.

APHOROPHORIDAE

Philagra concolor Hacker

Damage by the few specimens observed, appears negligible.

CICADELLIDAE

Vulturnus vaedulcis Kirkaldy

&

Orosius argentatus (Evans)

CIXIIDAE

Leptolamia spp. (2 spp.)

&

Gen. et sp. indet.

ACHILIDAE

Phenelia elidipteroides Kirk.

&

Gen. et spp. indet. (2 spp.)



Moore, K M. 1972. "Observations on some Australian forest insects 28. Insects attacking *Lantana camara* L. in New South Wales." *The Australian zoologist* 17(1), 47–48.

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