

HABITAT OF PHELLOPSIS PORCATA LEC.

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During my first year or two as a beetle collector I considered *Phellopsis porcata* LeC. rather a prize, as I seldom came across it. Dr. Hugh B. Leech, in a letter, had informed me that I would find plenty under bracket fungi on coniferous trees, but much searching in such situations did not produce a single specimen. Occasionally I found one or two under bark or in the wood of rotten fir logs.

All this early collecting was done near sea level on the east coast of Vancouver Island. In this area the dominant tree is Douglas fir, *Pseudotsuga taxifolia*, with a considerable admixture of balsam, *Abies grandis*. On many Vancouver Island mountains there is a strip on which the western hemlock, *Tsuga heterophylla*, predominates, at about 2,000 to 3,000 ft., or just before the strictly alpine conifers take over. On my first attempt at collecting in this zone I found that I was able to take almost any number of *Phellopsis porcata* specimens, by looking under fungi on hemlock trees.

During the last two seasons my brother, Arthur Guppy, has sent me a number of beetles which he collected for me at Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver Island. In this area, *Tsuga* predominates right down to sea level. As might be expected, *P. porcata* has appeared frequently among the material from this locality. Data accompanying these specimens shows them to have been taken from dead hemlock trees, either in fungi or under bark. We have here rather strong evidence to show that *P. porcata* is specifically attracted to fungi growing on *Tsuga heterophylla*.

Possibly the most interesting fact brought to light by my collecting of *P. porcata* is its association with *Ostoma* spp. My experiences with *O. pippingskoeldi* Mannh. exactly parallel those with *P. porcata*. I found only stray specimens until I got into the hemlock zone, and then I collected numbers on the same fungi as harbored *P. porcata*. On the west coast apparently the same association exists, except that there, *O. pippingskoeldi* is completely replaced by *O. columbiana*.



Guppy, Richard. 1951. "Habitat of *Phelopsis porcata* LeC." *The Coleopterists' Bulletin* 5(2), 28-28.

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