

Identification

THE WORK ON THE identification of the large number of aphids collected to date has been delayed by the lack of assistance for clearing and mounting the aphids on slides for microscopic study. Many of the different species of aphids resemble each other so closely, and with so much variation from specimen to specimen within a given species, that it is often most difficult to make accurate determination even under the best of conditions.

The identifications completed to date indicate that about 100 different species of aphids have been found at the Arboretum, at least three of which are new species that have not been previously described. Some of the species are restricted to only a very few closely related species of host plants, while others have much wider host ranges. For example, *Myzus persicae* Sulzer has been found on over 500 species of host plants in the 1966 and 1967 collections and will undoubtedly reach a higher host range than this by the time the 1968 collections are identified.

Several other species of aphids have been found on more than 100 host plants, while others may have less than 10 host plants.

Control

APHIDS ARE ATTACKED and often controlled by a wide variety of parasitic wasps, and by such predators as the larvae and adults of the Lady Beetles, the larvae of the green lacewings (Neuroptera) and by the larvae of many of the Syrphid flies.

If chemical control is required, aphids may be controlled by a number of contact or systemic insecticides. Two of the most commonly used and readily available materials are Malathion, a contact insecticide, and Meta-systox R, a systemic insecticide, that is taken up by the plant which itself then becomes toxic to the aphids. Before pesticides are applied it is important that the directions on the container be carefully read and then used as directed in order to avoid accidents and to insure safe and effective results.

GRAY DAYS ARE LOVELY, TOO

*Sometimes while summer tarries, fogs ride high,
Sending a grayness on the land; beneath the gray-white sky
The trees are dull, pale olives more subdued;
The yellow-green of vines and grass is misty-dewed.*

*And in the soft, gray gloom, a single rose,
Clear pink, full-blown, on hanging vine, more intimately glows
Than on the brightest day when flowers seem
Mere gayer repetitions in the sunny theme.*

*Petunia's velvet is black-purple steeped:
And even flowers that flaunt sunshine's own yellow, glow more deep
Mid framing such as artist might essay,
The soft, harmonious drabness of a cloudy day.*

Lydia Bowen



Bowen, Lydia. 1969. "Gray days are lovely, too." *Lasca leaves* 19, 31.

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