A FURTHER ACCOUNT OF THE EFFECTS OF DDT WHEN USED ON CITRUS TREES IN FLORIDA

By

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In a preliminary account Griffiths and Thompson (2)* reported increases in Florida red scales (Chrysomphalus aonidum (L.)) following the application of DDT to citrus trees in Florida. They attributed the increase to the almost complete elimination of the insect parasites and predators which normally check the scale population. Studies on the effect of DDT have been continued. The present account deals with the population changes of Florida red scale and its attendant parasites as they were observed following two spray applications in the late summer of 1946. Three plots are reported upon. Although only two trees were included under each of the three treatments, the trends which were evidenced on these small plots are typical of the changes which have occurred following the use of DDT on citrus trees in Florida. All six trees were in a block which had received an application of DDT in an oil emulsion on April 28, 1946. Florida red scale populations had generally increased after the DDT treatment. The rate of increase had apparently been influenced both by the amounts of oil and by the amounts of DDT used in the original mixture. Many more scale insects were present on those trees which had received low concentrations of oil. Because of these scale increases, it became necessary to spray the entire block with oil in July. The trees which were used in the present experiment were treated on July 25. Two were sprayed with a 1% oil emulsion; two were sprayed with 4.8 oz. of DDT per 100 gallons of a 1% oil emulsion; and two were maintained as unsprayed controls. Figure 1 graphically presents the fluctuations in Florida red scale populations on these three plots from July 1946 to February 1947.

Estimates of the scale population were made by picking fifty leaves at random from that part of the tree which was accessible from the ground.

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1 Entomologist and Chemist, respectively, Citrus Experiment Station.
2 Italic figures in parentheses refer to Literature Cited at end of article.
These were examined under a binocular microscope and the actual number of living first stage scales, and living second and third stage female scales recorded per quarter leaf. The population figures shown in Figure 1 are based on the average percentage of infested quarter leaves. It is believed that this is a more reliable population estimate than the highly variable figure of scales per unit area.

Pre-spray scale counts were made about July 15. On the experimental trees, averages of from 3 to 60 live scales per quarter leaf were found and high percentages of these scale were ovipositing. Thus, when the spray was applied on July 25, there was a population consisting largely of ovipositing females, crawlers, and newly settled first stage scales. This represented a rapidly multiplying population and one which would increase quickly following even a well applied oil spray. Figure 1 shows that two weeks after the spray there were from 40 to 50% of the leaves still infested. This was true in spite of the fact that apparently 90% or better of the scales present at the time of application were killed by the spray. Therefore, it was decided to respray the plots in order to minimize scale insect damage. Accordingly, the same treatments were repeated on August 21. Two weeks later, the percentage of infested leaves for the two treated plots averaged less than 20% and actual live scales were again reduced approximately 80 to 90%. During this same period, the population on
the unsprayed plot had increased and reached a maximum in August. It then began a decrease which continued steadily until about the first of December.
Populations on the sprayed plots appeared to be somewhat stabilized until October. At that time there was another period of ovipositing activity which resulted in slight increases where oil had been used and a very marked increase on the DDT sprayed trees. In spite of the ovipositing activity, the unsprayed trees continued to show a decreasing population. About the first of December, this latter infestation began a very slow increase which continued through the first half of January. The DDT sprayed trees also had increasing infestations until late January. Although samples on the oil sprayed plots were not made in late December or early January, it is believed that these populations made slow increases throughout that period of time. In all three cases, populations showed decreases in late January which continued through February 15 when observations were stopped. These decreases followed a temperature drop to 33°F. on January 22 and a low of 22°F. on the morning of February 6.

As previously stated (2), it appeared that the Florida red scale increases following DDT applications were due to the elimination of insects which were parasitic or predaceous upon the scales. The initial effects of oil or oil-DDT sprays on the twice-stabbed lady beetle, Chilocoris stigma (Say), were checked during the July 25 spray. Squares of canvas were placed under several trees which were to be sprayed and the dead lady beetles which fell on them were counted 24 hours after the spray had been applied. On trees which were sprayed with 1.0% oil there were only 8 dead beetles per unit area. On the oil-DDT trees, there were 39 dead beetles per unit area. Not only were more beetles killed initially where DDT was added to the spray, but the DDT apparently resulted in a practically complete elimination of beetles from the trees for a period of several weeks. Although the exact extent to which these beetles reduce or check scale infestations has not been determined, there can be no question that they are predaceous upon scale and are an important factor in scale control.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>DDT</th>
<th>Oil</th>
<th>Unsprayed</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>7/15</td>
<td>8/10</td>
<td>7/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 2nd Stage Scale</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 3rd Stage Scale</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
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Two hymenopterous parasites have been recorded by the authors from Florida red scale. Prospaltella auranti (How.) is found as a late stage larva and as a pupa in second stage female and male scales. Pseudo-homalospora prima (Gir.) is found as a late stage larva or pupa in third stage female scale. The number of dead parasites, live parasites, and
emergence holes are recorded from a 50 leaf sample. Then, ratios of
evidences of parasitism per 100 live scales of a given stage are set up for
comparison. Table 1 gives the information for all three plots before and
after the July 25 spray application. Prior to the spray it appeared that
all the plots had fairly normal parasite/scale ratios. On August 10, no
evidences of parasitism were recorded on the DDT sprayed plot. On the
same date, there was apparently no difference between the pre- and postspray counts on the oil sprayed trees. The parasite ratios had definitely
increased on the unsprayed trees. It should be noted that after this date,
the actual scale infestation on the unsprayed trees began a steady decrease.

Apparently, oil alone did not produce a differential in kill between the
scale and its parasites. In order to kill a parasite in the scale insect, the
oil must first reach the scale. Thus, parasites and scale would both be
killed in the same proportion. However, DDT remained after the spray
as a residual toxicant. It appears that this residual toxicity resulted in
differential mortalities of the scale and its parasites. It is suggested that
the DDT residue probably killed both the scale crawlers and the free
living adult stages of the parasites for a period of time. Then, when the
residue became reduced to a certain, as yet unknown level, the crawlers
were able to move about and settle, but the free living parasitic forms
continued to be killed for an additional period of time. Other factors may
be of importance, but, in any case, it is obvious that the DDT application
resulted in an almost complete elimination of parasites on those trees to
which it was applied.

Table 2 gives the parasite incidence during December and January.
Careful checks on the oil sprayed trees were not made and therefore no
data for that plot are included. However, casual observation indicated a

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**TABLE 2.—A COMPARISON OF RED SCALE PARASITES FROM DECEMBER THROUGH JANUARY ON DDT SPRAYED AND UNTREATED PLOTS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Evidences of Parasites</th>
<th>Live 2nd Stage Scale</th>
<th>Parasites per 100 Live Scale</th>
<th>Evidences of Parasites</th>
<th>Live 2nd Stage Scale</th>
<th>Parasites per 100 Live Scale</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/3</td>
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<td>132</td>
<td>5.3</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>750</td>
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<tr>
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<td>112</td>
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<td>8.1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>72</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tbody>
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<td>21</td>
<td>0/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/20</td>
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<td>31</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0/38</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/29</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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**Third Stage Scale and Parasites**

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<th>Parasites per 100 Live Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>0/38</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
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</table>

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normal parasitic rate on these trees. By December, the parasite populations on the unsprayed trees had reached a very high level. The counts exhibited considerable variation. This was due to the fact that where low scale populations are encountered, the addition or subtraction of one scale or parasite makes a great difference in the ratio between the two. By December, the parasite ratios on the DDT sprayed trees had returned to normal and they continued that way through January and into February.

Checks on the actual amount of the p,p’ DDT were made at intervals throughout the observation period. They were made according to a modification of the method of Schechter et al. (3) which included the following technique. Twenty-five old leaves were selected at random from the trees to be checked and an area 1 in.² was punched from each leaf. These punched samples were then extracted for one hour with 150 mls. of petroleum ether (b.p. 35°—60° C.) in a Soxlet extractor. The volume was reduced by evaporation to 15 mls. and the material transferred to a 50 ml. centrifuge tube. The extraction flask was washed twice with small portions of ether and the washings were added to the centrifuge tube. The ether was evaporated and the tubes cooled in cold water. Five mls. of nitrating mixture composed of 1 to 1 by volume of fuming nitric acid (sp. gr. 1.50) and concentrated sulfuric acid (sp. gr. 1.84) were added, and the tubes were heated in a water bath for one hour at 100° C. After cooling the tubes in cold water, 25 mls. of ice water were added. The solution was transferred to a 60 ml. separatory funnel, and after thoroughly washing the tubes, the wash was added to the funnel. This was then extracted with 20 mls. of a solution containing 60% petroleum ether and 40% benzene. It was shaken vigorously for one minute and after separation of the layers, the aqueous portion was discarded. The solution was washed with 5 mls. of water and the aqueous portion discarded. After a second washing with 10 mls. of sodium hydroxide, the aqueous portion was again discarded. Following this a third washing with water was performed. The petroleum ether-benzene portion was then transferred to a dry flask, placed in a water bath, and evaporated to dryness under vacuum. Five mls. of anhydrous benzene and 10 mls. of sodium methylate solution (10 gr. per 100 mls. of anhydrous methanol) were added to the flask and the color read within 15 minutes. The amount of p,p’ DDT was calculated from standard curves prepared from pure tetra-nitro p,p’ DDT.

A curve showing the changes in the amount of DDT on the leaves of the DDT sprayed trees is shown in Figure 1. All trees in this experiment had received DDT in April, 1946. On July 24, approximately 0.5 mcg. DDT/cm² was found on all leaf samples checked. Since parasitic and predaceous populations were apparently normal at that time, it may be concluded that that amount of DDT did not affect them adversely. On July 25, the application of 4.8 oz. of DDT per 100 gallons of a 1.0% oil emulsion resulted in a deposit of approximately 1.0 mcg. DDT per cm.² of leaf surface. The curve in Figure 1 showing the decrease in DDT to less than 0.5 mcg./cm.² by August 22 is theoretical, but it is based upon previous unpublished work which showed that DDT on citrus foliage in

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5 Modification worked out by Dr. James B. Redd, formerly Insecticide Chemist, Citrus Experiment Station.
Florida was reduced according to a similar type curve. On August 22 approximately 1.0 mcg. DDT/cm.² was again deposited on the foliage. The decrease in DDT residue as shown on the continuing curve is still theoretical, but it is believed to be essentially accurate. Analyses in late November and December showed about 0.5 mcg. DDT/cm.² on the trees sprayed in July and again in August. At that same time there was still approximately 0.5 mcg./cm.² of leaf surface on the trees which had received no DDT since the preceding April. Ebeling (1) suggested that DDT was carried into the tissues of the leaf by kerosene. It appears quite possible that a similar phenomenon may occur where DDT is applied in conjunction with a regular miscible spray oil. The fact that this amount of residual DDT did not affect the parasitic population appears to substantiate this theory. Further work on this problem is proceeding. In any case, in this study, it appeared that the damage to the parasitic and predaceous populations was accomplished during a short interval after each spray application when the DDT residue was above 0.5 mcg. DDT/cm.² of leaf surface.

Summary and Conclusions

1. In July 1946, three series of plots were established in a block of orange trees which had received a DDT application in April. There had been a marked increase in Florida red scales following the April spray. One plot served as an unsprayed control; one received a 1% oil emulsion; and one received 4.8 oz. DDT per 100 gallons of a 1% oil emulsion. They were treated in July and again in August.

2. The lady beetle, Chilocorus stigma (Say) was virtually eliminated on the DDT sprayed trees. They were not materially affected by the 1% oil spray.

3. The Florida red scale infestation was initially reduced, but later it increased to serious proportions on the DDT-oil plot. It was reduced on the oil sprayed plot. After an initial increase on the unsprayed trees, it declined almost to zero by December.

4. Hymenopterous parasites of Florida red scale were eliminated by the DDT application, but they appeared to be more or less unaffected by oil sprays alone. By December, parasite populations appeared to have returned to normal on the DDT sprayed trees.

5. The use of 4.8 oz. of DDT per 100 gallons of spray resulted in an additional deposit of 1.0 mcg. DDT/cm.² of leaf surface. This amount of DDT was reduced to about 0.5 mcg./cm.² within four weeks. The damage to parasitic and predaceous populations was apparently accomplished within that interval of time.

6. Approximately 0.5 mcg. DDT/cm.² of leaf surface was retained on foliage for as long as nine months. In this experiment, within four weeks after spraying, residues had been reduced to this level and they remained there for at least five months. Apparently there was an Irreducible minimum of DDT which remained on or inside the leaf for a very prolonged period of time. This amount of DDT appeared to have no effect upon Florida red scale or its parasites or predators.
THE MOSQUITOES OF THE FLORIDA KEYS

By A. E. PRITCHARD,¹ E. L. SEABROOK,² and J. A. MULRENNAN³

The Florida Keys comprise a chain of islands which curves southward from the southern end of peninsular Florida. These islands form the southernmost part of the United States; and their fauna and flora represent a connecting link between the Caribbean region and continental North America.

The Florida Keys are naturally divided into two groups which differ considerably in geology and vegetation. The Upper Keys extend from Soldier Key, near Miami, to Bahia Honda channel. These are narrow keys which are composed of Key Largo limestone, a formation which originated as a coral reef. The Lower Keys, extending from Bahia Honda to Key West, are composed of Miami oolitic limestone, the same formation which is found in the southern part of the mainland. The surface of the oolite is often marked with solution holes. The Dry Tortugas, and other islands beyond Key West, are present-day coral reefs which appear as developing atolls.

The vegetation of the Keys consists of rather scrubby and often dense tropical hammock and mangrove swamps. Such plants as the poisonwood (Metopium toxiferum Kr. & Urb.), Jamaica dogwood (Ichthyomethia piscipula A. S. Hitch), thatch palms (Thrinax spp.) button-wood (Concarpus erecta L.), black mangrove (Avicennia nitida Jacq.), white mangrove (Laguncularia racemosa Gaertn.), and red mangrove (Rhizophora mangle L.), are common. The plants on the Lower Keys are considerably more diversified, and extensive stands of the slash pine (Pinus caribaea Morelet) and the silver thatch palm (Coccothrinax jouvunda Sarg.) are found on several of the islands.

The elevation of the Florida Keys is low, not rising above 15 feet. The period of maximum precipitation is generally from May to November, with the greatest rainfall occurring during the fall when tropical storms may be expected. Conditions in the Keys are apt to be arid during the winter and early spring at which time fresh water pools are scarce. Temperatures are warm enough to permit breeding throughout the year, but, in general, the abundance of mosquitoes is dependent upon the rainfall and tidal fluctuation.

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² Palm Beach County Anti-Mosquito Control District.
³ Florida State Board of Health.