Notes

Two Species of Sawflies Previously Unrecorded in Florida

In the past several years, two species of sawflies have been observed in Alachua County, Florida. These species have not been previously reported from the State but it seems likely that they have existed here for many years. Neither species appears to be of economic importance at the present time.

_Croesus latitarsus_ Norton (Hymenoptera-Tenthredinidae): This species has been found in relative abundance on river birch or black birch (_Betula niger_ L.) growing on the banks of the Santa Fe River. The insect has the assigned common name of “dusky birch sawfly” and is a defoliator of birch trees in the northeastern United States and Great Lakes region. One generation is the rule in the northern United States with a partial second generation in some seasons. Under Florida conditions there are numerous successive generations beginning when birch foliage becomes available in the springtime.

The larvae are dull green with black spots and glistening black head capsules. Seven pairs of abdominal prolegs are present and a glandular structure is found between the prolegs of each pair. Each larva is approximately one inch long when full grown. Larvae occur in groups, and eight or more may feed on the same leaf at the same time. The posterior end of the abdomen of feeding larvae is curved upward and they have the appearance of so many question marks surrounding a leaf. Prepupae enter the soil where they spin silken cocoons. Adults are black with flattened tibia and tarsi. Confirmation of the identity of the insect was made by Mr. C. F. W. Muesebeck of the U. S. National Museum.

_Acantholyda tesselata_ (Klug) (Hymenoptera-Pamphilidae): This species is associated with loblolly pine (_Pinus taeda_ L.) in the Gainesville area. Several of the large black and yellow adults have been collected in recent years. In 1954 a single full-grown larva was found hanging from a silken thread attached to a loblolly pine tree. This larva was pale green with a dorsal and two lateral purplish longitudinal stripes. Prolegs are absent in this species and a pair of terminal abdominal filaments gives the larva the appearance of having a head on both ends. Pamphilid larvae are web-spinners and pine needles are webbed together by the feeding larvae of this genus. The
insect has not been found in abundance and more observations are needed. Newly emerged adults have been dug from the soil during the early spring months which indicates that the winter is passed as prepupae within cocoons in the soil. Since all collections have been during the spring months, there is probably only one generation each year. Identification of the insect was made by Dr. W. W. Middlekauf of the University of California. Previous collection records indicate that the insect is most commonly encountered in the northeastern United States.

L. A. HETKICK
College of Agriculture
University of Florida