

Refer to:

W - 3

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Centers of the Moon National Monument
Arco, Idaho

Twins

June 28, 1956

Agricultural Experiment Station
US Department of Agriculture
Moscow, Idaho

LRMA
2193703

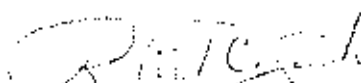
Dear Sirs:

The attached package contains some insects which we wish to have identified. One is tentatively identified as the Yellowstone Lodgepole pine sawfly. The larva, cocoon, and adult are contained in the small box and vinyl attached to the side of the box. The small cuttings in the top of the box are believed to be aphids, while the larger cuttings in the bottom of the box are the damage of an unknown insect, unless, perhaps, the sawfly. The sawflies were taken from Douglas fir within the monument. The larvae were taken from the trees a few days ago, while the adults were hatched this winter from larva kept in captivity.

We are interested to know the species of the insects, their present range over the state, and whether in epidemic stage at any local. At present, the sawfly does not seem to be doing any great amount of damage, though we are not qualified to make any statement of this nature.

We are also interested to know the present extent of white pine blister rust surrounding this area. Our dominant tree of the monument is Limber pine, and two Ribies are present in the shrub cover. No blister rust was found by an inspection team out of Seattle in 1952; we are interested in keeping track of the progress of the disease, nevertheless.

Yours truly,


Robert C. Zink
Acting Superintendent

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
COLLEGE OF FORESTRY
MOSCOW, IDAHO

~~BINDER COPY~~

July 12, 1956

Mr. Robert C. Zink
Acting Superintendent
Craters of the Moon National Monument
Arco, Idaho

Re: W-34

Dear Mr. Zink:

Your letter of June 28 and attached package of insects and insect damaged needles have been referred to me.

I am not certain of the identity of the sawfly, but I believe your tentative identification of Neodiprion burkei, the lodgepole sawfly may be correct. I have forwarded the specimens to a specialist in the group and will keep you informed.

The aphid is a Chermes, possibly Chermes cooley, the spruce gall aphid. This is the species that stimulates the interesting galls on various spruce. Douglas fir is an alternate host during part of the life cycle. While the galls on spruce or the yellowing of needles on Douglas fir may be considered unsightly, the aphid is not ordinarily highly destructive.

It is not possible to determine the cause of damage to the Douglas fir needles. It may be the sawfly, but usually the sawflies restrict their feeding to old rather than current foliage. There are several little known caterpillars that occasionally feed on expanding buds.

If I have an opportunity, I will try to drop in on you and perhaps look at the area in the field. If they occur in large numbers for easy collecting, and if it would be convenient we would certainly appreciate a handful of the sawfly cocoons for our collection.

I am referring your question on Ribes to Dr. Gilbertson in forest pathology and he should be answering shortly.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin C. Clark

Edwin C. Clark
Assistant Professor (Entomology)

ECG:nlk

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
COLLEGE OF FORESTRY
MOSCOW, IDAHO

BINDER COPY
Sawflies

October 5, 1956

Mr. Robert C. Zink
Acting Superintendent
Craters of the Moon National Monument
Arco, Idaho

Your Reference: N-34

Dear Mr. Zink:

I have just received identification of the sawfly specimens forwarded under your letter of June 28, 1956. Dr. H. H. Ross of the Illinois Natural History Survey, the specialist in this group of insects, has placed them in the Neodiprion abietis complex. The sawflies are a very difficult group of insects for the taxonomist to handle, and the word complex indicates that they suspect the existence of biologically distinct groups, perhaps species, which are not reflected in distinct morphological characteristics. The eventual unraveling of such a complex requires exact rearing and biological studies.

Dr. Ross informs me that specimens similar to yours have been reared from Douglas fir in British Columbia.

Those people investigating this problem are eager to receive additional specimens to work with. If it is possible for you to collect additional cocoons in the litter under the host trees they would be of great value. Adults should be appearing in the field for mating and egg-laying in the next few weeks.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin C. Clark

Edwin C. Clark
Assistant Professor of Entomology

ECC:ac

cc: Philip C. Johnson