The Sisal Borer in Hawaii. (Coleoptera).

BY O. H. SWEZKY

(Presented at the meeting of January 7, 1926.)

The first specimen of this immigrant curculionid beetle collected in the Hawaiian Islands was found by Mr. F. Muir crawling on a window sill of the lavatory in basement of the main building of the Experiment Station, H. S. P. A., Honolulu, Dec. 17, 1918.1 Another specimen was collected by Mr. T. L. Bissell, June 1, 1922, at the fruitfly office in Honolulu.2 A third beetle was taken by Mr. G. P. Wilder at his residence, 1930 Ualakaa St., Honolulu (date unknown).

From poor specimens at hand of the Mexican sisal borer, or "max beetle," it has been considered that this was the same, and a lookout has been kept for the work of it in sisal here. The first evidence of its work was found by Mr. Bissell, Feb. 14 and 18, 1924, in a dead sisal plant back of the U. S. Experiment Station, Honolulu.3 In this sisal plant, numerous dead beetles were found, mostly broken, and dead pupae and larvae in pupal cases. There were about 200 of the latter, which were a sort of cocoon made of the fibers of the plant. There were many exit-holes in the stem. This would indicate that the insect was well established in that locality, but examination of a nearby dying sisal plant revealed no evidence of the insect or its work.

Since that time, sisal, or century plants have been examined in various places about Honolulu without finding any further evidence of the insect. On Dec. 27, 1925, 34 of the beetles, a larva and a pupa were handed me by Philip Westgate with the explanation of their capture. He had collected them in a variegated leaved century plant (Agave mexicana) that was standing in front of the residence of the Director of the U. S. Experiment Station. The plant was producing its flowering stalk which

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was already about 10 feet tall. Some of the lower leaves were
dying, and investigation had shown them to be rotten at the base,
as well as part of the main stem of the plant, and the beetle and
its larvae quite numerous, apparently the cause for the decay.

I examined this plant Jan. 1st, and also some others nearby
and found them to be infested also. Specimens of the larvae
and pupae were obtained for preservation.

There has been some uncertainty as to the species of this
insect. The Mexican sisal borer is *Scyphophorus acupunct-
tatus* Gyll. Our specimens agree fairly well with specimens
from Mexico which are in the cabinets at the Experiment
Station, H. S. P. A. Some of the present lot of specimens
have been sent away for comparison and determination.

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*Hyposoter exiguae* (Viereck) in Hawaii. (*Hymenoptera*).  

BY O. H. SWEZLEY

(Presented at the meeting of June 3, 1926.)

Recently this ophionid has been found parasitizing armyworms
quite abundantly. It was first discovered at the Waialae Ranch,
October 28, 1925, when a few cocoons were found on grass
leaves and the parasite reared from them. It was not till some
more cocoons were found on grass in a field of sorghum at the
Hind-Clarke dairy at Wailupe, November 13, that the host was
determined in these cases. Beside each cocoon was the cater-
pillar skin of the host, which could be identified as that of
*Spodoptera mauritia* (Boisd.). Similarly, two cocoons of this
parasite were found on corn leaves at the U. S. Experiment
Station, November 25. In each case, a caterpillar skin of
*Spodoptera exigua* (Hüb.) was present. A few small larvae of
this moth were feeding on the corn leaves. On November 27
the cocoons were found very abundant on grass at Koko Head,
where caterpillars of *Spodoptera* were numerous. Several hun-
dred of these cocoons were collected and sent to Olaa, Hawaii,
in an attempt to establish the parasite on that island, as we did

*This determination was confirmed by Dr. Guy A. K. Marshall of the
Imperial Bureau of Entomology in letter dated February 5, 1926. [Editor.]