The Erythrina Twig-Borer (Terastia meticulosalis) in Hawaii (Pyralidae, Lepidoptera).

BY O. H. SWEZEY.

(Presented at the meeting of February 2, 1922.)

Terastia meticulosalis Guené, Delt. & Pyr., p. 212, 1854.

Terastia subjectalis Led., Wien. ent. Mon., p. 480, 1863.

Megaphysa quadratalis Walker, Cat., XXXIV, p. 1527.

Megastes coeligenalis Hulst, Trans. Am. Ent. Soc., XIII, 156, 1886.

Terastia meticulosalis, Hampson, Fauna of British India, Moths, IV, p. 381, 1896.

What appears to be this Pyralid moth, I have reared from pupae found in pods of the wiliwili tree (*Erythrina monosperma*). Three of these pupae were found in pods on a tree in Makaleha Valley, Oahu, January 8, 1922. The larvae had eaten the immature seeds and pupated within a cocoon partially within the remains of the skin of the seed. There were quite a good many pods on the tree which had matured and were hanging opened with the seeds exposed. Other pods were found in which the seeds had been eaten, besides the three which contained pupae. This is the first time that the wiliwili pods or seeds have been found eaten in this way, and the first record of this moth for the Hawaiian Islands.

Hampson, in Fauna of British India, Moths, IV, 381, 1896, gives a description and figure, and the distribution as: St. Domingo; Honduras; Ceylon; Java; Philippines. He states that the "larva bores in young stems of *Erythrina*."

Fletcher, in Some South Indian Insects, p. 439, 1914, gives the distribution in South India as Bellary, Madras, and Coimbatore. He says the larva "bores into terminal shoots and unripe seed-pods of *Erythrina* of various species."

In Proceedings of the Second Entomological Meeting at Pusa, India, 1917, I find it stated that "it is sometimes a serious pest, especially of *Erythrina Indica,* the larva boring in the young shoots so that all the new growth may be killed back."

Dyar, in Journal of the New York Ent. Soc., IX, 21, 1901, describes the larva from *Erythrina herbacea* in southern Florida,

and says: "The larva is an internal feeder, boring in the younger stems which it completely hollows out, killing them. When the plant is in early flower, the young flower heads are often killed and webbed up into a foul mass by this larva. Spins a large webby cocoon in the ground."

Hulst's description of *coeligenalis* does not exactly agree with the description of *meticulosalis* given by Hampson. My specimens do not quite agree with these, nor with the figure given by Hampson. Where a species has been described under four different names, it must have some variation. Hence, I think that my specimens, the three of which show quite a bit of variation in color, come near enough to be considered this species. However, I shall endeavor to have it verified, either at the United States National Museum or by someone in India.

It seems strange that no one should have noticed the work of this moth on this side of the island, and that this first record should come from a valley so far removed from the more densely settled portions, where we should expect a new immigrant to be first noticed.

On January 29, I made considerable search for evidence of this moth on wiliwili trees on the Ewa coral plain south of Sisal. In that region there are a good many of the trees, many of them being very large. Just at this time there are many ripe pods hanging on the trees with the seeds exposed. Seach among these finally revealed the presence of remains of eaten seeds containing the cocoons of a moth. Examination of the empty chrysalids showed them to belong to the Phycitid moth *Myelois ceratoniae,* and gives us a new addition to the food plants of this moth. Six such seeds were found, but in all cases the moths had already issued. Search will be made in other localities as opportunities present.

Apparently the insect has been here a long time, but has not increased abundantly and has thus escaped notice. It no doubt arrived some time in the past, when seeds of *Erythrina Indica* or some other species were imported.