

An attempt was made to transfer the mites from diseased to healthy fruit. Though negative results were obtained in most cases, the typical mite-blisters were produced in a few instances and the mites again recovered from the inoculated fruit. From this it would seem that these mites are probably responsible for the foregoing symptoms on apples, apricots, and plums.

From inquiries which we have received, and from notes taken regarding the distribution and destructiveness of the "apple-blotch mite," there seems to be no doubt that this pest is one to be reckoned with by fruit-growers in all parts of the Province.

A number of correspondents claim to have exhausted every means of control without effect. A careful study should undoubtedly be made of the life-history of the mite, and experiments conducted with a view of obtaining some satisfactory method of control.

ANTS AS FRUIT-TREE PESTS.

BY W. H. BRITAIN, B.S.A., PROVINCIAL ENTOMOLOGIST.

I first noticed the work of these ants, which were determined by Dr. Wheeler as *Formica rufa*, Linn., subs. *obscuripes*, upon peach-blossoms at Penticton on May 3rd, 1912. The ants were boring into the nectaries of the blossoms, destroying the pistil and feeding upon the nectar. In some cases small round holes were eaten in the petals, and in a few instances the young tender foliage was injured in a similar manner.

In an orchard at Summerland on May 10th, 1913, I noticed a Morello cherry-tree in which 75 per cent. of the blossoms were destroyed by these ants, which swarmed over the tree and ate out the pistil of the flower to get at the nectar.

At Kelowna on May 12th, 1912, Mr. Lionel Taylor, of the Bankhead Orchards, called my attention to apple-blossoms injured in the same manner as above.

In no case where I have seen this injury has there been any aphides present on the trees. It is conceivable that herein lies the explanation for this strange behaviour of the ants. In a German paper (Vosseler J. Verhinderung des Fruchtausatzes bei *Cobæa* durch Ameisen, Zeitschr. Wiss. Insectenbiol. 11, 1906, pp. 204-206) mention is made of an ant boring into the blossoms of *Cobæa scandens* to get at the nectar.

Though this species is an abundant one everywhere in the North-west, little seems to be known of its habits and life-history. I have only one note on the habits of the species, taken at Vernon on June 15th, 1913. A large number of the ants were swarming around the base of the apple-tree, busily engaged in destroying and carrying off the cutworms which were abundant in the soil of the orchard. Though the insect is a very small one, it seemed capable of handling a cutworm considerably larger than itself.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

(G. O. DAY, F.E.S.)

Gentlemen.—When I was casting about in my mind for a subject for an address this evening, it appeared to me that a review of the study of entomology in the Province would be suitable and useful and perhaps acceptable to our members, especially to those who have joined our Society in recent years. On mentioning the matter to our Secretary, Mr. Treherne, I found that he had already written a paper covering much the same ground that I had intended to deal with, and supplementing the information contained in Mr. Tom Wilson's address in 1911.

I urged Mr. Treherne to read the paper himself, and I would content myself with a few general remarks on other matters. However, with great generosity he placed the results of his labours at my disposal. So you must please understand that the following is a joint production. I feel extremely reluctant to appropriate another man's work for my address to-day, but as Mr. Treherne was down on the programme to read another paper, and also because I am confident that the notes he has gathered