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A LITTLE KNOWN CUTWORM, *Euxoa excellens* Grt.*

BY ARTHUR GIBSON, CHIEF ASSISTANT ENTOMOLOGIST, IN CHARGE
OF FIELD CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS, DOMINION
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

In the Province of British Columbia the caterpillars of *Euxoa excellens* Grt. have been abundant enough during certain years to effect important damage to vegetables of several kinds.

HABITS AND LIFE-HISTORY

The first year of which we have record of this species as an economic pest is 1885. In Fletcher's report for 1903,† it is stated that in 1885, the cutworm was a perfect plague in market gardens around Victoria. Larvæ from British Columbia were also received at Ottawa in 1888, and referred to in Fletcher's report for that year under the name of *Agrotis obeliscoides* Gn. In 1903,‡ the species was again troublesome on Vancouver Island. Since this latter year we have received no reports of injury by this cutworm until 1916, when under date of May 30, the late Mr. Tom Wilson, a valued officer of the Entomological Branch, reported an outbreak in the neighbourhood of Sechart, which is a short distance north of Vancouver. The caterpillars had cut off various kinds of garden plants and apparently their feeding habits are similar to those of the better known surface-feeding species of the genus *Euxoa*. In some gardens three sowings of spinach, lettuce, onion, etc., had been made before the end of May.

Larvæ received at Ottawa in June, 1916, pupated early in July. Three specimens which changed to pupæ on July 2, produced the moths on July 29 and 30. Other moths emerged in

*Contribution from the Entomological Branch.

†Rept. Ent. & Bot., Exp. Farms, Ottawa, 1904.

‡Idem, p. 183, under *Paragrotis perexcellens*.