

HYPERA NIGRIROSTRIS FAB. IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.*

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Hypera (*Phytonomus*) *nigrirostris* Fab., is a clover insect of supposedly European origin¹ which, for many years, has been known to occur in the eastern states and eastern Canada. It has been recorded from as far west as Minnesota by Schwarz,² the most western point of which I have seen record, except as hereinafter stated. The insect is a very close relative of the Alfalfa Weevil, *Hypera postica*, and the discovery of its parasites in northwestern America is, therefore, thought worthy of record.

In 1916 Professor R. A. Cooley³ reported this weevil from "one valley in western Montana," where the insect had been present "during the past two years." In May, 1915, the author found adults of *H. nigrirostris* at Bellevue, Wash., on the shore of Lake Washington opposite Seattle. The distribution of this insect in the Pacific Northwest has since been traced by members of the staff of the Forest Grove Laboratory of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology, Cereal and Forage Insect Investigations as follows:—*H. nigrirostris* was found in western Montana by C. W. Creel at various points in the Flathead Valley from Columbia Falls on the Great Northern Railroad to Dixon on the Northern Pacific Railroad, and also at Arlee, Montana, in the Jocko Valley, a short distance south and east of the Flathead Valley. West of the Cascade Mountains it has been found from Vancouver, B.C., on the north (by C. W. Creel) southward through Washington to its southern limits in Oregon at Garden Home in the Willamette Valley, Forest Grove, in the Tualatin Valley and Nehalem on the coast. Mr. Wm. T. Ham, of the Truck Crop Insect Investigations of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology, reports it in correspondence from Orcas Island, Wash., and Longmire's Springs on Mt. Rainier at an elevation of 2,761 ft.

In 1915 and 1916 *H. nigrirostris* was found in fair numbers at Bellevue, Wash. and Olympia, Wash. In 1917 this species was very numerous and doing considerable damage to clover on the grounds of the Western Washington Experiment Station at Puyallup. In the season of 1918 *H. nigrirostris* was discovered for the first time at Forest Grove, Oregon. Only three specimens were found in that locality during the entire season of 1918. It does not seem possible that this insect could have been present at Forest Grove prior to this year, as clover fields of the vicinity had been very carefully watched since 1914. In the season of 1919 the weevils were slightly more plentiful at Forest Grove, but still by no means common. The insects increased in numbers toward the north, that is toward the Columbia River and the Coast Range, beyond which they also occurred on the ocean front near Nehalem, Oregon. Every indication is that the trend of dispersion of the species is from the north to the south.

There is, however, an unusual phenomenon concomitant to this invasion of a new region by a well-known insect. It was stated above that but three specimens of *H. nigrirostris* were found at Forest Grove in 1918. One of these

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1. Webster, F.M., U.S. Bureau of Entomology, Bulletin 85, Part 1, 1909.

2. Schwarz, E. A., Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash., Vol. 9, 1908, p. 114.

3. Cooley, R. A., 14th Annual Rept. Sta. Entomologist Montana, Bull. No. 112, p. 67, 1916.