

A NEW PEST OF MAGNOLIAS

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Hay (1958)³ reported a damaging infestation of the phycitid *Euzophera ostricolorella* Hulst on yellow poplar in western Kentucky and Tennessee in 1954-57. He stated that this lepidopterous borer apparently has not been considered economically important and that its reported range in eastern United States has been from New York to Georgia. Mr. H. W. Capps of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Entomology Research Division, identified as *Euzophera*, probably *ostricolorella*, a borer the writers found severely damaging magnolias (*M. grandiflora*) in the area of Macclenny, Florida, during the winter of 1956-57. Yellow poplar and magnolia are related species, but apparently this is the first recorded injury to magnolias. The trees examined were all young, about three to six feet in height. They were growing in blocks up to a couple of acres in size in commercial nurseries. In some of the nurseries virtually every tree was attacked, and the damage was severe. The larvae apparently feed on the outer tissues and rarely do the burrows disappear beneath the surface, though the wood was deeply etched in these small trees. The winding burrows were confined to the bottom few inches of the trunk and the large roots entering the crown. The beginning point of feeding was sometimes visible just above the ground, but frequently a small amount of soil needed to be pulled away from the base of the trunk to reveal the burrows. Two or three larvae were commonly found in trees only a couple of inches in diameter at the base and complete girdling frequently occurred. Girdled trees were killed, and less severe feeding damage resulted in varying degrees of yellowing and dropping of the leaves. It was evident that the magnolias had the ability to recover eventually from large amounts of larval feeding that stopped short of complete girdling.

On February 1, 1957, when the trees were first examined, only large larvae and pupae were found. By late March many adults had emerged. Hay (1958) observed the main adult flight to be in early spring, and he believed there was one generation a year in the Kentucky-Tennessee area with some evidence of a partial second generation.

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³ Hay, C. J. 1958. Life history and control of a root collar borer (*Euzophera ostricolorella* Hulst) in yellow poplar. Jour. Econ. Ent. 51: 251-252.