

## Meeting of Entomologists

For the past seven or eight years the entomologists of Indiana have held a meeting in conjunction with the Academy of Science. These meetings are usually held on Saturday morning following the regular program of the Academy. The programs are always informal and topics of general interest are discussed. The attendance this year was 15.

Mr. Paul T. Ulman of the State Entomologist's Office discussed the present status of the European corn borer. This pest was exceedingly destructive this past season in the central part of the state, where the average borer population in some counties showed as high as 30 per cent infestation. In the northeastern part of the state, where borers have been present for ten or more years, the population decreased in some counties. The reason for this was probably the hot, dry weather. Control measures were discussed, and it was agreed that such cultural practices as plowing and cleaning up offer the best remedy at present, although hybrid varieties of corn are now being developed that show some resistance.

Mr. E. V. Walter of the Federal Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine discussed some of the work at the Lafayette Field Station. For corn earworm control, studies are being made on resistance strains of sweet and field corn. In the south he stated that sweet corn with long, tight husks was being raised, while the use of a light mineral oil applied at silking time was effective in reducing injury to market garden sweet corn. On field corn certain hybrids are showing some resistance, but it is too early to make any definite predictions on the success of such methods.

The chinch bug, according to Mr. Walter, was present in its hibernating quarters in about normal numbers. In other words, the present population is large enough to become serious in the spring if climatic factors then are favorable.

Mr. G. E. Lehker, Extension Entomologist at Purdue University, explained the use of Kodachrome slides for teaching and extension work. He showed a series of slides and explained the technique used in taking pictures to show insects, types of injury, and control measure. Since most insects are quite small, special equipment for taking close-ups was described.

Mr. G. E. Gould of the Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station followed Lehker's discussion with the procedure in making black and white prints from Kodachrome slides. It is necessary to project the Kodachrome from a 35 mm. enlarger onto a four by five inch negative. Orthochromatic film was found better for this purpose than panchromatic.

Dr. E. N. Woodbury of the Crop Protection Institute, stationed at Purdue, explained about his work in testing chemicals for their effi-

ciency as insecticides. These chemicals, supplied by the company supporting the fellowship, were tested against aphids, houseflies, roaches, grain beetles, and other insects—either as sprays, repellents, or fumigants—depending upon their solubility and volatility.

The Japanese beetle infestation in the state, according to Ulman, remained about the same. Some new infestations have been found, while many old infestations have been checked by the arsenate of lead treatment. Best results with this poison were obtained when it was used in a liquid and sprayed over the surface of the ground.

New infestations of the brown-banded roach are being found from time to time, according to Gould. This roach has been recorded from 78 localities in 27 states, Washington, D. C., and Montreal, Canada. The five cities in Indiana from which infestations have been reported are Bloomington, Indianapolis, West Lafayette, Lafayette, and Muncie.

Mr. C. O. Partlow of Lafayette reported on the relative abundance of household pests. Records for the 10-year period from 1931 to 1940 indicate a gradual increase in requests for information concerning various insects. The largest gain was termites, with about four times more inquiries in 1940 than in 1931.

A unusual infestation of bat bugs (*Cimex pilosellus* (How.)), in a lodge hall was reported by Gould. Members of the lodge observed what appeared to be bedbugs crawling around on the walls when the building was heated. Examination revealed that bats had been roosting in the attic for years, as indicated by the immense quantity of fecal matter and dead bats on the floor of the attic. Under the hip rafters this accumulation was 30 to 36 inches deep in places. Apparently the bats preferred to hang in the corners formed by the jack and hip rafters. Only two live bats were found when the attic was examined in November. No bugs were found on the bats, but numerous dead specimens were found in spider webs and under loose wallpaper. The bugs were determined as bat bugs and not bedbugs.

An interesting report on some parasites of the sorghum midge was reported by Walter. In the southern states a small chalcidoid wasp, *Eupelmus popa* Gir., was the only parasite found, although reports in 1920 indicated *Aprostocetus diplosidis* Cwfd. was the principal enemy of the midge. Since the publication of the life history of the midge during the past summer Walter has had correspondence with an entomologist in Trinidad who reported that the Eupelmus wasp had appeared and replaced the other parasite in several of the islands around Trinidad.

Dr. W. E. Martin of DePauw discussed a paper he had presented on the previous day at the Academy meeting on Hormones in Arthropods. Little is known on this subject and Martin is just starting his investigations.

Mr. C. O. Partlow of Lafayette was selected as chairman for the 1942 meeting of the entomologists.