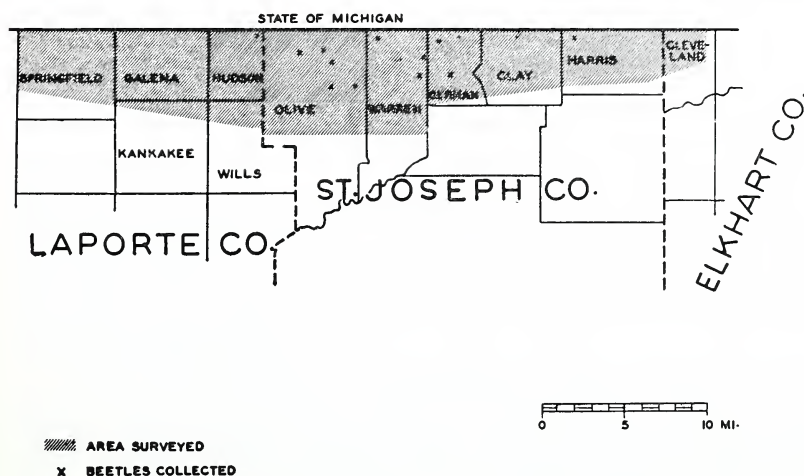


The Occurrence of the Cereal Leaf Beetle, *Oulema melanopa* (L.), in Indiana, 1962

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The cereal leaf beetle, *Oulema melanopa* (L.), a serious pest of cereal crops in certain areas of Europe, Asia and Africa, was found to occur in the United States for the first time early this summer in southwestern Michigan. A preliminary survey conducted by the Division of Entomology on August 9, 1962 indicated the presence of this potentially serious pest in northern Indiana immediately south of the infested area in Michigan. Immediate plans were made to conduct a more extensive survey in northern Indiana to determine the extent of the insect's movement and distribution, the degree of infestation, and to gather, if possible, information on host range and favorable habitat.

The area covered by this survey conducted August 13-17, 1962 was approximately two hundred square miles directly south of the Indiana-Michigan state line. It is six miles wide and about thirty-five miles long extending east of Michigan City to Elkhart and covers parts of LaPorte, St. Joseph, and Elkhart Counties. Since *Oulema melanopa* (L.) is known to attack cereal crops, corn fields and vegetation adjacent to them as well as oat and wheat stubble were directly examined for the detection of this pest and its typical feeding signs. Collections of the cereal leaf beetle were also made by sweeping the vegetation with a standard beating net. Fifty double sweeps were made at each site sampled, since fewer sweeps failed to recover beetles from a known in-



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fested field where positive collections were made a week earlier. About ninety-seven stops were made at one mile intervals or wherever sites suitable for feeding and shelter of this beetle were found.

The survey results indicate that *Oulema melanopa* (L.) has successfully moved into the State of Indiana and is distributed, though in extremely low populations, over an area of about sixty square miles. (Fig. 1). Positive collections were made in twelve different locations in Olive, Warren, German, and Harris Townships in St. Joseph County and in one location in the northeast corner of Hudson Township in LaPorte County. No beetles were found in Elkhart County. The number of beetles caught at each positive collection site ranged up to five beetles. cursory examinations and sweeping at likely locations in other sections of the state not extensively surveyed were all negative.

No beetles were present on corn at any of the sites examined nor were the characteristic feeding signs noted. Beetles were collected by sweeping only from vegetation adjacent to corn and to oat or wheat stubble. Such vegetation consisted of a mixture of weeds and grasses, including ragweed, lambs-quarter, smart-weed, curled-dock, chicory, foxtail, timothy, quack grass, and orchard grass.

Literature Cited

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