

weeks immediately following planting, very few deaths amongst the planted trees have occurred, and a general flush of growth was noticeable in October, two months after planting.

A vigorous growth of Scotch thistle, Yorkshire fog and Cocksfoot are noticeable in the planted-up clearings and the grasses in particular are likely to impede somewhat the development of the young kahikatea. Should, however, competitive vegetation be kept under control for the next 2 or 3 years there is a reasonable chance of establishing a sufficient stocking of kahikatea in an otherwise derelict forest. Probably the first case of artificial regeneration of kahikatea forest, this experiment will be watched with considerable interest.

References.

1. Field, J. F. (1932). *N.Z. Journal of Forestry*. Vol. 3, No. 2, p. 65.
2. Thomson, A. P. (1936). *N.Z. Journal of Forestry*. Vol. 4, No. 1, p. 32.

Hylastes ater Attacking Apples.

The European bark beetle, *Hylastes ater*, is now established in many parts of the Dominion. It breeds in the roots and stumps of pines but in the adult stage attacks and destroys young conifers by feeding upon the bark and outer tissues at and about ground level.

An interesting example of change in the feeding habits of the beetle is afforded by a case occurring in the North Island. Unusual damage to apples being noticed by an orchardist, he forwarded specimens of the damaged fruit to Mr. W. Cottier of the Research Dept. who recovered some beetles from the fruit and sent them to me for examination. They were readily identified as *H. ater*. The beetles damage the apples by first eating the skin in large patches and then boring a tunnel in towards the core.

In the case noted, the insects had evidently bred in a nearby shelterbelt and migrated into the orchard. Fortunately the loss of fruit was not serious. It is not expected that *H. ater* will qualify for a permanent place upon the already lengthy list of orchard pests in this country, as the adults of this bark beetle are not likely to become exclusively frugivorous.

A. F. CLARK.