

SYMPOSIUM ON MICROBIAL CONTROL OF SPRUCE BUDWORM
AND GYPSY MOTH

PURPOSE OF SYMPOSIUM

F. B. Lewis

Project Leader, Center for Biological Control of
Forest Insects and Diseases, Northeastern Forest
Experiment Station, Hamden, CT 06514.

The principal purpose of this Symposium is to take advantage of the CANUSA experience, which has engaged so many of us recently, to share and place in the context of our total experience, the current situation regarding microbial insecticides and their use. The exercise will be useful not only for information exchange -- the traditional purpose of symposia -- but also to sharpen and hone future research program planning for microbial insecticide research.

There are many similarities with the microbial component of the 1974-78 gypsy moth R. D. A. Program. Thus the combining of the two in this symposium, many here participated in that effort. Indeed in microbial R & D there are many common goals and problems, regardless of the target insect.

We hope the program - admittedly full packed - will stimulate discussions, friendly disagreements, and at the conclusion a clearer idea of where we stand, what has been done, what remains to be done, and the approaches to be taken. Hopefully a continuation of scientist to scientist interaction we have observed recently will be stimulated and the importance of the problems remaining will be underscored for the administrators present. We certainly hope the International cooperation fostered during the CANUSA program will serve as a model and that this conference will facilitate even more and better cooperation.

A section of this conference will present new research, where it is going, and how it should benefit microbial implementation against these two major insect pests. We will be hearing from the Industrial people and where they see their products and thrust are going. And most importantly we will be hearing from the users - those on the firing line - and how they assess microbials in meeting their problems.

Our workshop sessions will be slightly different than most and hopefully will capture all the various points of view. They are designed to stimulate open discussion. These workshops will be recorded "in toto" so that the Chairperson will have all statements, comments, opinions in hand to prepare a thorough exposition of the topic area and not miss the casual, but important comment from the floor.

We hope to have the Proceedings of this conference in your hands within a short time. This will depend upon the speakers and workshop chairpersons having their camera-ready copy in quickly if they are not already turned in.

Have a good meeting. We hope you find it enlightening, stimulating and valuable to your sphere of interest.