

It is a matter of great importance to determine what are the species that are causing damage in the southern nurseries, as until that is known and their life-histories are worked out it is useless to endeavour to formulate control measures.

DATA REQUIRED.

The following data are urgently required with regard to *Odontria puncticollis* :—

- (1.) Dates of emergence of the beetles.
- (2.) Crops in which egg-laying takes place.
- (3.) Length of time the grubs remain in the larvæ condition.
- (4.) Food-plants of the adult beetles.
- (5.) Food-plants of the grubs.
- (6.) Effect of fires in destroying the beetles.
- (7.) Effect of spraying and application of soil-fumigants—(a) poison sprays, (b) deterrent sprays, (c) soil-fumigation.

When reliable data under these headings have been secured a satisfactory method of control should be able to be devised so far as protecting the young trees is concerned. This is extremely important, because this insect is greatly increasing the cost of the production of certain trees, notably the larch. Any reduction in the cost of the raising of trees is of fundamental importance in forestry, and this is especially true of species with a long rotation.

SUGGESTED METHODS OF CONTROL.

One of the most suggestive methods of control would be the covering of the beds each evening with beetle-proof frames during the short period the beetles are on the wing. The present seed-frames employed could easily be adapted for this purpose. It is more than probable that the main flights will occur at approximately the same date each year, and if the beetles are stopped from laying in the beds during that period the damage should be reduced to a minimum.

The important fact that *O. puncticollis* does not damage Corsican pine is a most suggestive one. It would appear as if the beetles do not lay any eggs in soil occupied by seedlings of this pine. This appears to be correct, as larch-trees that come up accidentally in the Corsican-pine breaks are not affected. It might prove feasible to combine the sowing of a certain amount of larch with the Corsican pine, and this is a matter that can easily be determined. The Corsican pine is an extremely aromatic one, and the question of experimenting with deterrent sprays may probably yield valuable results. If any specially favourite food-plants for the beetles are found, the growing