15.10 POWDER POST BEETLE

Scientific Name: a) *Lyctus africanus*
Family: Bostrichidae
Order: Coleoptera

Status: Most destructive pest of fuel wood articles.
Distribution: Widely distributed.

DESCRIPTION OF STAGES

Egg: The eggs are long, narrow and stalk-like at the top.

Larva: A small grub with usually large head.

Adult: The adults are reddish-brown to dark brown in colour with hard shell-like winged body having fine dorsum. Head bears fine hairs coming out from the punctures.

LIFE HISTORY

Female lays eggs singly in longitudinal cut or below the surface. After hatching, 1st instar larvae feed on egg yoke, shell, wall and some particles of wood. 2nd instar feed on the surrounding wood, eat their way and fill it by powdery faeces and woody fragments called frass. Pupation starts just below the surface in the spring. Adults remain in the pupal chamber for 3 to 4 days. Adults emerge during April to September and the population is found maximum in June to

August. Copulation starts just after emergence at dusk. Both sexes live for 3 to 6 weeks. They crawl in cervices at day time and fly out frequently at dusk (evening). Total life-span is 10 to 12 months which is extended up to 3 to 4 years in least starch wood. The insect over-winters in the larval stage.

DAMAGE

The larvae eat hard, dry wood, tunnelling and making **Short holes** of 1/16 to 1/4 inch diameter until interior is completely reduced to fine powder like that of yellow coloured *Atta*/flour.

CONTROL

1. The application of kerosene oil with the help of a medical syringe is quite effective in enforcing the pest to leave its hiding place and thus the wooden articles are saved.

2. Application of malathion solution at very low concentrations in the pin holes made by the pest gives very effective control.

Scientific Name: b) ***Sinoxylon anale***
Family: Bostrichidae
Order: Coleoptera

Status: Most destructive pest of fuel wood articles.
Distribution: Widely distributed.

DESCRIPTION OF STAGES

Adult: The adults are characterised by a hooded and roughened thorax covering the head with a three jointed clubbed antennae. The adult beetles sometimes bore into wood for feeding or hibernation.

Egg: They are typically larger, laid in the galleries with exit holes and remain there for sometime. They measure 3 mm in diameter.

Larva: They tunnel longitudinally in the partially or recently seasoned sapwood of certain hardwoods, reducing the wood to a flour-like structure, slightly coarser in texture.

Pupa: Pupation takes place at the extreme end of larval tunnel in a cell.

LIFE HISTORY

The beetles lay eggs in Y-shaped tunnels. The larvae make several inches long galleries. These are circular in cross-section and fully packed with wood dust. Minimum life cycle completes in 2 months and maximum in over 4 years. The adults infest the timber in appreciably wetter conditions.

DAMAGE

The attacked wood is eventually reduced to a flour-like powder except a thin outer skin. The larvae eat the hard, dry wood, tunnelling through timbers. They may completely destroy the

timbers of the buildings, long cabins, rustic work, ship and aeroplane lumber, furniture, tool handles, wheel spokes, oars, casks, and other lumber kiln-dried material. They feed only on dry well-seasoned wood. The larval attack is often concentrated in patches or bands of high starch content.

CONTROL

1. The application of kerosene oil with the help of a syringe in affected furniture parts is quite effective in making the pest leave its hiding place.

2. Use malathion in the pin holes made by the pest for a very effective control of this pest.

3. Pyrethroids (such as permethrin and cypermethrin) in 0.1 to 0.5% concentrations as dust, mats/coils and aerosol sprays are effective for the control of this household pest.