

Insect migrant seen in city trees

The oak leaf-miner, another insect immigrant, has arrived in Australia. It was first recorded in Canberra during the summer of 1975-76 after Mr C. Nazer of the Canberra City Gardens Administration submitted two adults to Dr Ian Common, a curator of the National Insect Collection at the CSIRO Division of Entomology in Canberra.

These adults had been reared from 'leaf-mines' on oaks grown as street trees, and a quick look at other trees elsewhere in the city revealed a heavy infestation.

Mr Nazer then made a more thorough survey of Canberra's ornamental trees,

and found that several species of deciduous and evergreen oaks were being attacked. So also were chestnuts. Further inquiries and observations in New South Wales indicated that the tiny moth was also attacking trees in the Sydney metropolitan area, Wollongong, Menangle Park, Bundanoon, and Bathurst.

The oak leaf-miner, as its name suggests, attacks the leaves by eating out the green tissue. The mines give the leaves a blotchy appearance, and severely attacked ones turn brown.

Although new to Australia, the miner has been well known in New Zealand since 1951. By the end of the summer of 1953-54 it had spread over much of the country attacking 11 genera in addition to the oaks—Antarctic beech being one of these. The insect now seems to be quite effectively controlled by parasites introduced by the DSIR.

Biological control agents

for the oak leaf-miner have not been introduced into Australia, yet already six different species of parasitic native wasps have been reared at the Division of Entomology from collections of mined oak leaves. So, in time, this New Australian

may perhaps find its level without outside help.

The oak leaf-miner, *Phyllonorycter messaniella* established in Australia. I.F.B. Common. *Journal of the Australian Entomological Society*, 1976, **15**, 471-3.

ARRIVALS

