

MIMOSA WEBWORM (HOMADAULA ALBIZZIAE CLARKE)
(LEPIDOPTERA: GLYPHIPTERYGIDAE)

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INTRODUCTION: THE MIMOSA WEBWORM IS A DESTRUCTIVE PEST OF ORNAMENTAL MIMOSA (ALBIZZIA JULIBRISSIN DURAZZINI) AND CONSTITUTES A THREAT TO HONEY LOCUST (GLEDITSIA TRIACANTHOS L.) FOUND IN WESTERN FLORIDA. THE LARVAE (FIG. 1) FEED ON THE FOLIAGE. WHEN THE LARVAE REACH MATURITY THEY DROP TO THE GROUND TO PUPATE, LEAVING THE WEBBED MASSES OF SKELETONIZED LEAVES HANGING UNSIGHTLY ON THE HOST.

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DESCRIPTION: THE FULL GROWN LARVA IS SLIGHTLY MORE THAN ONE-HALF INCH LONG. THE HEAD AND BODY VARY IN COLOR FROM PALE GRAY TO BLACKISH-BROWN. FIVE WHITE LONGITUDINAL STRIPES EXTEND THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE BODY. SOMETIMES THE DARK GROUND COLOR IS DIFFUSED WITH ROSE OR PINK; THIS MAY BE INTERRUPTED BY WHITE PATCHES, PRODUCING A MOTTLED EFFECT.

THE PUPA IS YELLOWISH-BROWN, ABOUT ONE-FOURTH INCH LONG, AND ENCLOSED WITHIN A SILKEN COCOON.

THE ADULT MOTH HAS A WINGSPREAD OF ABOUT ONE-HALF INCH. THE WINGS ARE MOUSY GRAY WITH A SILVER LUSTER. THE FOREWINGS ARE STIPPLED WITH CONSPICUOUS BLACK SPOTS.

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: SPORADICALLY THE LARVAE ARE SO NUMEROUS THAT THEY COMPLETELY DEFOLIATE THE HOST. JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, EXPERIENCED SUCH AN OUTBREAK IN AUGUST 1955.

CONTROL: MALATHION, LINDANE, OR THIODAN WETTABLE POWDERS.

REFERENCE:

ST. GEORGE, R. A. THE MIMOSA WEBWORM, A SERIOUS PEST OF OUR MIMOSA AND HONEY LOCUST TREES. MIMEOGRAPHED. U. S. DEPT. AGR., AGR. RES. ADM., BUR. PLANT QUAR., DIV. FOREST INSECT INVEST., ASHVILLE, N.C. 4 P.

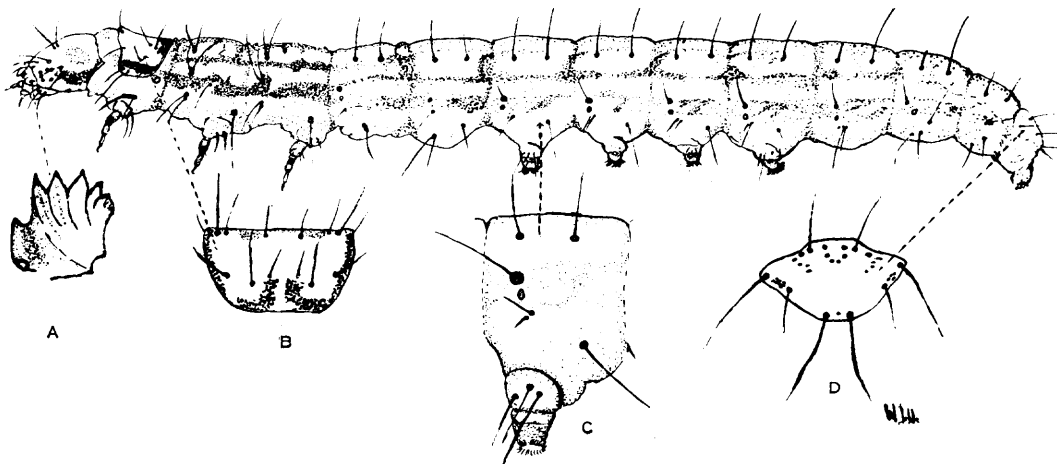


FIG. 1.- LARVA. A. ORAL FACE OF RIGHT MANDIBLE. B. DORSAL VIEW CERVICAL SHIELD.
C. LATERAL VIEW OF THIRD ABDOMINAL SEGMENT. D. ANAL PLATE.