

Robin Cutler gets top British Forestry post

Mr Robin Cutler, Secretary of the Ministry of Forestry, has been appointed Director General of the British Forestry Commission and takes up his new position in September.

In announcing this recently, he said that his only regret is that he leaves New Zealand forestry at an exciting time, when the sector is poised to surge ahead as the increased wood volumes come on stream.

Robin has been in New Zealand forestry 26 years and has wide experience in forest management and utilisation and as a senior executive in the former Forest Service and the Ministry of Forestry.

Commenting on his appointment, he said: "The British Forestry Commission is responsible for managing forests for a wide range of values including production, conservation and recreation; for developing policy; and for undertaking research, protection and extension. In a lot of ways it is very similar to the former NZ Forest Service: the scope of its

responsibilities epitomise what forestry as a profession is all about. It is certainly much closer to the expectations I had when I first embarked on forestry as a career."

He says that the high calibre of this country's forestry is well appreciated overseas, and he believes his background in New Zealand forestry has contributed to his appointment.

The Institute of Forestry congratulates Robin and wishes him every success. Our loss is certainly Britain's gain.

Colin Bassett



Robin Cutler

Alan Familton awarded OBE

Alan Familton was awarded the OBE in the New Year Honours List. Alan has the distinction of being the last Director-General of the Forest Service (probably the most difficult of any DB's term). It is

good to see that he, and forestry, have been recognised.

ERRATUM

On Page 3 of Vol. 34/4 the Hensley report was called the Henslel report. The editor apologises for this error.

New biological control agent

Staff of the Forest Research Institute in Rotorua have achieved a breakthrough in the fight to control a serious insect pest from Australia, the Eucalyptus leaf mining sawfly.

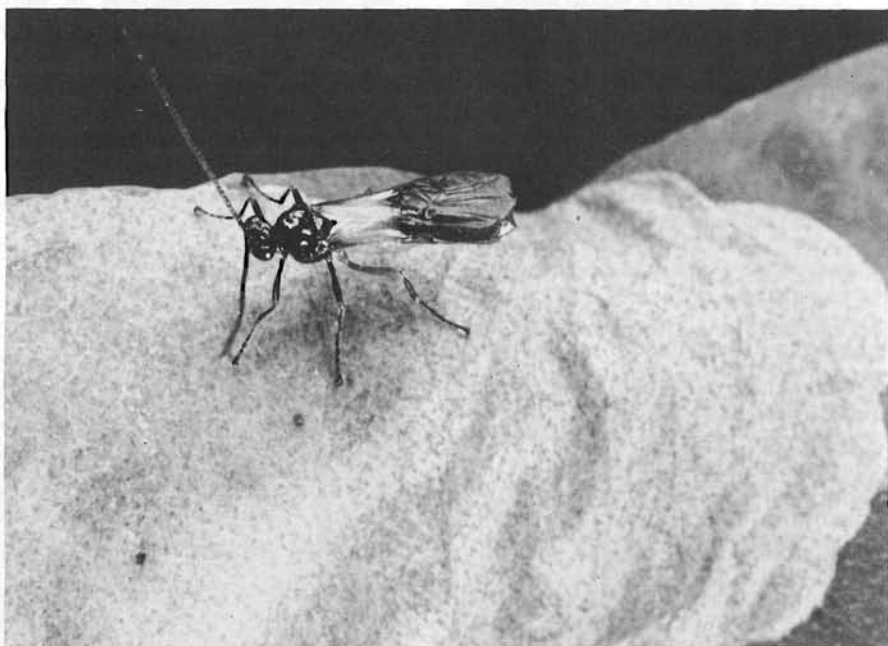
The sawfly was first identified in New Zealand in 1985, near Auckland Airport. By the time it was discovered it had already become too widely established to be contained, and it has since spread through Auckland, Waikato and the Bay of Plenty. It is also established around Hastings, and recently it has been found at Palmerston North.

It attacks the foliage of eucalypts, and can lead to the death of young trees. It was such a threat that some growers stopped planting eucalypts.

The solution to the problem is a 4-5mm-long orange and black parasitic insect called *Bracon phylacteophagus* - "the Bracon" for short.

This Australian insect was identified as a possible parasite for the sawfly, and was introduced to New Zealand in January 1988 and since then there have been 30 releases. These have been very successful and should have the sawfly under control within two years.

The sawfly larva lives and feeds inside a eucalypt leaf. The female Bracon



Bracon parasite about to lay an egg on a sawfly larva hidden inside a eucalypt leaf. (Photo: Forest Research Institute, Rotorua)

probes the leaf with its ovipositor, stings the sawfly larva to paralyse it, and then lays an egg on it. When the egg hatches,

the new Bracon larva devours its host.

Mr Bill Faulds, of FRI, Rotorua is in charge of this project.