

have also increased substantially.

While Mexican markets can be expected to grow for some types of agricultural products, major markets will likely continue to be in manufactured goods. Mexico tends to be an exporter of many agricultural commodities and has been making significant strides in improving its production potential. It will be trying to export more in the future to help meet a widening adverse trade balance with the United States.

Imports from Mexico have been increasing in recent years, but remain small relative to exports. The total value of merchandise received from Mexico in 1967 amounted to \$725 million, an increase of over 70 percent from the 1955-59 average. Agricultural imports of \$327 million were over 45 percent of the total in 1967.

Imports from Mexico for the four years 1964-67 averaged only about 60 percent of exports. Moreover, the trade gap has increased from \$337 million average deficit for the years 1955-59 to \$452 million for the years 1964-67.

In 1967, over one-third of the value of imports of agricultural items was from coffee and sugarcane. For 1963-67, these have varied from one-third to one-half of all United States purchases from Mexico. Fresh tomatoes were 13 percent, live cattle 11.1 percent and beef 6.1 percent. Considerable quantities of fresh fruits and vegetables enter during the winter months since Mexico has a seasonal advantage in production. Live cattle imports from Mexico consist largely of feeder animals which are fed out in United States feedlots.

If trade between the United States and Mexico is to flourish, particular and narrow interest group action must be restrained in both countries. On balance, the public interest — those rights of consumers, importers, exporters, and of producers of export products — all must be taken into account in resolving the problem of adjustment associated with changes in trade with Mexico, as with other countries. The positive economic gains to particular groups, to the economy in general, and to international development must be balanced against the adverse effects on domestic interests. Whether or not groups adversely affected should carry the full cost of these gains is a policy question involving equity and welfare considerations.

Mesquite Scale

by George Wene*

Mesquite trees of southern Arizona are being attacked by an insect locally called mesquite scale, or *Taumeyella mirabilis*.

It attacks mesquite trees used in home garden landscaping and those which are irrigated. It apparently does not affect too seriously those mesquite trees on the open desert, for no destructive populations have been reported on non-irrigated mesquite.

The scale is a sucking insect. It is brown in color. It has irregular yellow, or yellow-orange, markings. The adult scale is from 3/16 to 5/16 inch in diameter. Each adult produces about 50 small nymphs each year near the 10th of June.

As the nymphs emerge they are about 1/16 inch in diameter. Very active, they move to settle at the crotch of a twig or leaf. At the new site they settle down, develop the hard cover and start their sucking

action. As they continue to feed they rob nutrients and as a result leaves and twigs are killed.

The scale has been in the area for many years, but in small numbers.

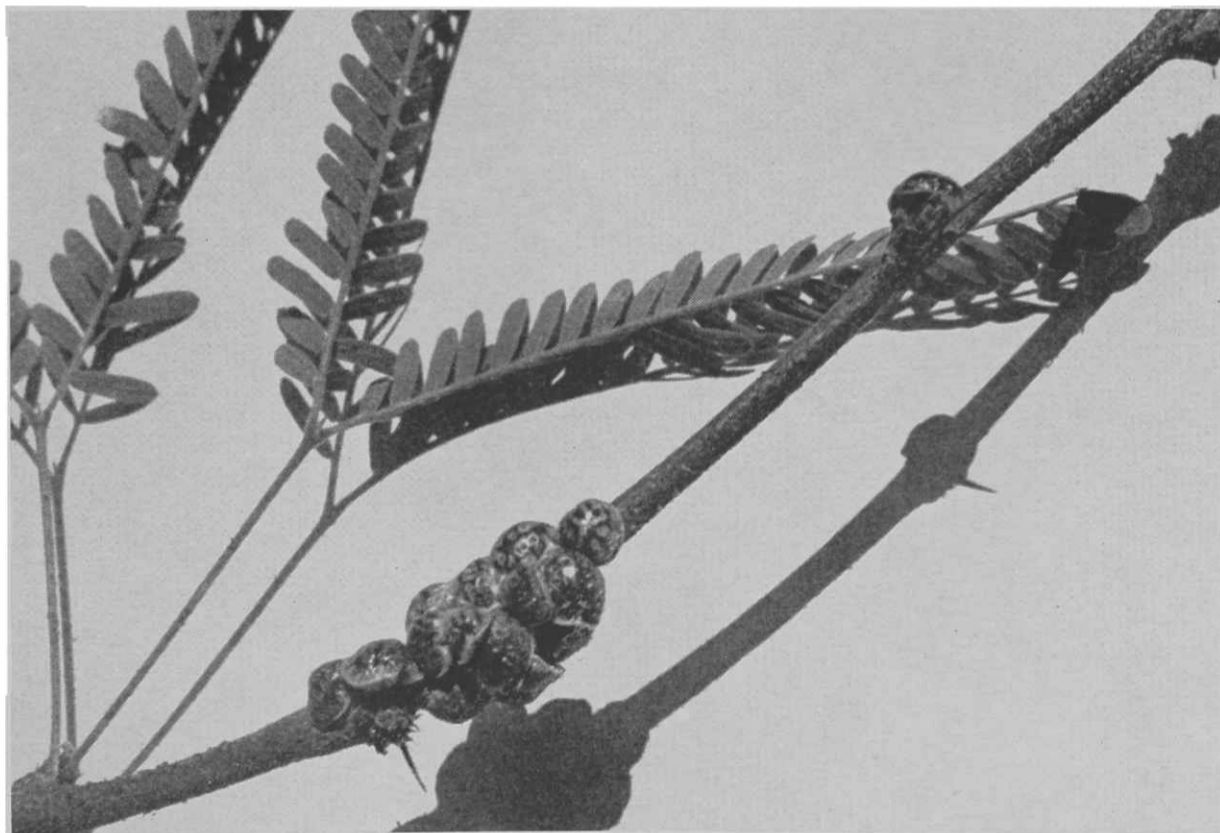
There is presently no known specific treatment. The problem is so new that there has been insufficient time to develop effective treatment.

However, malathion, since it has been effective on other scale insects, may provide effective treatment especially when applied to the young nymphs. It may be effective if two teaspoons of malathion per gallon of water is applied in a spray.

And, until more specific knowledge is known relative to treatment the above spray may provide some protection. Other insecticides which claim effective scale control may also be tried.

Time to initiate treatment is now. For if you plan to treat this year the timing is right while the scale nymphs are still young and potentially susceptible to insecticides.

*Associate Entomologist, Department of Entomology.



In photo above note the cluster of round-like half-spheres along the mesquite stem. These are the adult mesquite scale, as they are known locally. It attacks mesquite trees in home plantings where abundant irrigation water is applied. Desert mesquite are not troubled by pest.