

Notes on *Hevea confusa* Hemsl.

In Vol. II No. 4 of the "Gardens Bulletin" a description was given of *Hevea confusa* which is considered to be an undesirable neighbour to *Hevea brasiliensis*, although in general appearance it is not easy to tell them apart. In reference to the above article the following letter has been received from Prof. J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., Director of Agriculture, Demerara. It would appear that the plants at Singapore were raised from Prof. Harrison's seeds. "Your records will show you that about 1910-1911 I wrote to your gardens seeking information about the seeds of *Hevea confusa* sent there from here about 1898-1900. Will you kindly inform Mr. B. J. Eaton that his analytical results on the rubber fully confirm those obtained here about 1910-1911 during the large scale tappings of *H. confusa* trees in our forests. We showed the *confusa* rubber at the Rubber Exhibition of 1911. When the soft rubber is kept for a length of time it very slowly gains resiliency and finally resembles slightly tacky or very inferior rubber from *H. brasiliensis*. Towards the end of 1910 the *H. confusa* rubber was valued in the U. S. A. at approximately 66% of the then price of hard para rubber. Some hundreds of pounds were said to have been used in the factory tests. It was I believe, finally used as an ingredient in mixings for vulcanite.

"*H. confusa* has proved to be a most objectionable tree. Experience has shown that cross-fertilisation between *H. confusa* and *H. brasiliensis* readily takes place but, worst of all it appears in the Guianas to be the forestal host plant of the organism giving rise to the leaf-disease of Para rubber, which disease has practically put an end to the chances of successful Para rubber cultivation in French and British Guiana."

A small seedling has been planted in the Botanic Gardens near the Herbarium and far removed from any *Hevea brasiliensis*.

T. F. C.

A Pest of Lima Beans,

A beetle which has been very troublesome in eating the leaves of the Lima Bean plants was submitted to the Rev. G. Dexter Allen for determination. In his reply Mr. Dexter Allen says:—

"The insects you sent are Phytophagous beetles of the Section Eupoda and almost certainly belong to the Genus *Cryptocephalus*, the species is very probably un-named as yet. The genus has very numerous representatives in the Indo-Malayan Insect Fauna, and this is about the smallest species of the genus I have seen. These beetles generally feed on the leaves at night and are therefore difficult to exterminate. I have often collected Phytophagous beetles, never so small as these however, with some one carrying a hurricane lamp for me. Spraying the leaves is frequently useful, nicotine and arseniate of soda might be tried experimentally."

T. F. C.