

Note

Discovery of the Boll Weevil, *Anthonomus grandis* Boheman in Paraguay (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

The major agricultural export of Paraguay is cotton. This is mostly produced on 150,000 small permanent farms seldom over 12 acres in size. Cotton is plowed by horse or oxen and picked by hand. The whole family works on the farm with additional hands for harvest. Competition with modern mechanized agriculture is possible because of high yields and low production costs. No other crop has proven as suitable for the Paraguayan small farmer. Upon the arrival of the boll weevil, *Anthonomus grandis* Boheman, from infested Brazil, costs of production could increase by 500 per cent, making competition on the world market impossible. A disaster of major proportions is predictable.

To prepare for such a disaster, the Paraguayan Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agricultural Organization (F.A.O.) of the United Nations in 1984-85 set up a network of 800 pheromone traps for the early discovery of the boll weevil. The Paraguayan Ministry of Agriculture has maintained this network to date, much of the time by the effort of R.M. Marengo and coworkers.

F.A.O. contributed to this effort with four separate contracts to Fito Technica Florida Inc. of Gainesville, Florida which was involved from the start. The 1991 effort is under the auspices of Consorcio Pacific Consultants International / S.I.C. in cooperation with the Paraguayan Ministry of Agriculture.

The latest excursion was made into the Paraguayan - Brazilian border area of Hernanda to Corpus Christi from April 24 to May 3, 1991. During this trip pheromone traps were examined and cotton fields scouted, searching for punctured squares. This zone was inspected because of its proximity to infested cotton in the states of Parana and Mato Grosso do Sul of Brazil. Its vulnerability is further enhanced by truck traffic from Brazil shipping seed cotton to gins in Paraguay. A total of four specimens of *A. grandis* was found by the authors in four different traps near Saltos de Guaira. The identification of the weevils was verified by Horace Burke, of College Station, Texas. Collecting data was as follows: **Place:** Km. 3 W Ruta 10 "Residentas" property of Joao Dolfino de Paula. Six hectares of Brazilian cotton var. IAC 20 (?) **off:** pheromone traps U.S.D.A. Legget and Cross (Hercon Chem Corp. U.S.A.) **from:** Saltos del Guairá, Dept. Canindeyú, Paraguay, South America. **Date:** 26 (5 PM) - 30 (10 AM) of April 1991. **Collectors:** Willard H. Whitcomb & Rosa Maria Marengo. - **R.M. Marengo, Casilla 1663, Asunción, Paraguay, and W.H. Whitcomb, 4013 NW 39th Way, Gainesville, FL 32606 USA.**