

**RESISTANCE BY PLANT TISSUE HIGH IN SILICA TO INJURY BY
CYANIDE AND MARINE BORERS**

Because of comparatively ready availability—proximity to the Manatí-Ciales road—a large “jagüey” tree, *Ficus laevigata* L., heavily infested with “hormiguilla,” the coffee shade-tree ant, *Myrmelachista ramulorum* Wheeler, was used for a number of years for conducting experiments in the control of this ant. Before Aldrin became commercially available, and indeed before its value in the control of hormiguilla had even been considered, the most promising method of killing these ants was to use bits of hamburg steak as an attractant, mixed with cyanide of potassium as a toxicant. Enormous numbers of ants were experimentally killed using this combination of poison and bait, applied directly to the bark of the jagüey tree, without any indication of injury to the bark or any other part of the tree.

The tests were so successful indeed as to suggest continuation on a large scale in a commercial coffee grove on shade trees of *Inga vera* Willd. and *Inga laurina* (Sw.) Willd. A few weeks after application of the steak-cyanide

⁴ “Insectae Portoricensis,” a preliminary annotated check-list of the insects of Porto Rico, with descriptions of some new species, *J. Dept. Agr. P. R.*, 7 (1) 5-313, 1923.

⁵ Dispersion to the Tropics of the Spiraea aphid, *Aphis spiraeicola* Patch, *J. Agr. Univ. P. R.*, 39 (1) 32-40, fig. 1, ref. 14, 1955.

