

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
M a n i l a

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2

January 13, 1930

SUBJECT: Declaring the Leaf Miner Beetle, *Promecotheca cumingii*, a
Dangerous Plant Pest, and Providing for Its Control.

WHEREAS, there exists in alarming numbers in the Provinces of Laguna, Batangas and Tayabas an insect known as the leaf miner beetle, *Promecotheca cumingii*, which disastrously attacks the coconut trees;

WHEREAS, coconuts are once of the main economic plants of the Philippine Islands, the exports of the products amounting to ₱70,000,000 annually;

WHEREAS, adequate measures must be adopted to check the increase, prevent the spread, and so effect the control of this dangerous insect;

NOW THEREFORE, under authority conferred upon the undersigned by Section 175 of Act No. 2711, known as the Administrative Code, and Section 10 of Act No. 3027, entitled "An Act to Protect the Agricultural Industries of the Philippine Islands from Injurious Plant Pests and Diseases, etc.," leaf miner beetle *Promecotheca cumingii*, is hereby declared a dangerous plant pest, and the following regulations are promulgated to govern the removal or treatment of the affected parts of coconut trees, and to check the increase, prevent the spread, and so effect the control of this plant pest.

1. For the purpose of this Administrative Order, all the municipalities in the Provinces of Laguna, Batangas, and Tayabas where leaf miner beetles are or have been known to exist shall be considered as formally declared infested with this plant pest.

2. Whenever the leaf miner beetle is known to exist in alarming numbers in any locality in the Philippine Islands, aside from the municipalities and provinces referred to in this Administrative Order, the Director of Plant Industry will send a written report to the governor of the province concerned, either direct or through a plant inspector of the Bureau of Plant Industry, containing among other things, the names of the municipalities or barrios infested by the plant pests, and the owners or persons in charge of the affected coconut plantations.

3. Upon being notified in accordance with the preceding paragraph, the provincial governor shall immediately inform each municipal president concerned in writing of the contents of the notification of the Director of Plant Industry. The municipal president shall then issue a general written notification to the inhabitants of the municipality to the effect that leafminer beetles in alarming number exist in the municipality, and

at the same time declare the municipality infested with this plant pest. Copies of the general notification shall be posted in at least six conspicuous places in the municipality and a certified copy of same sent to the Director of Plant Industry.

4. Once a municipality or a portion thereof has been declared infested with this plant pest, it shall be the duty of the person who owns or has under his charge coconut trees within the infested areas to do as follows:

(a) He shall collect or catch, or cause to be collected or caught, the leaf miner beetles, preferably with nets early in the morning from 6 to 9:30 o'clock, for the insects can be seen in flight under the coconut trees during those hours of the day. Those caught are to be killed or otherwise destroyed.

(b) In case collecting or catching cannot be done effectively in his particular grove for any reason, he shall spray the beetles with soap solution at the rate of 1/4 to 1/2 pound, preferably with Chinese yellow laundry soap, dissolved in about 18 liters or about one petroleum canful of water. The spray may be made more effective by using nicotine sulphate or tobacco decoctions and calcium or lead arsenate with soap. Or he may use calcium or lead arsenate and water alone with some adhesives other than soap. The spray should be directed to the lower surface of the leaves where the beetles are found in considerable numbers. The spraying should be done in such a way to strike the insects with the liquid so as to wet them and kill them by suffocation.

(c) If he is an owner or in charge of at least fifty coconut trees, he shall, aside from the methods prescribed in section (a) and (b) of this paragraph, dig holes about 1 cu.m. of ground for every 50 trees attacked and place infested coconut leaves in the holes, covering the opening of said holes with 16 wire mesh gauze. The infested leaves must be changed at least every ten days. The idea is to liberate the parasites without allowing the beetles to escape.

(d) He shall cooperate with and aid the plant inspectors and other officials of the Bureau of Plant Industry in their work of controlling the leaf miner beetle, and comply with all the instructions, orders, or requirements relative to the destruction of badly infested leaflets or leaves or of entire trees, if thought necessary.

5. In order to carry out the provisions of this Administrative Order, the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Director of Plant Industry or their duly authorized representatives, the provincial governor or his duly authorized representatives, ~~the president of the muni-~~

cipality concerned or his duly authorized representatives, and all other officials connected with or taking part in the campaign of controlling this plant pest, shall at all times have access to or upon any land, lot, yard, garden or plantation of coconut trees where leaf miner beetles in alarming numbers are known or suspected to exist.

6. Nothing in this Order shall be construed or interpreted as prohibiting the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Director of Plant Industry or their duly authorized representatives from permitting the cutting down, taking away or removing, in exceptional cases, in such manner or by such method or under such conditions as may be prescribed by him, of such coconut plants or parts thereof from any or all of the provinces mentioned above, or from those which may be declared infested hereafter.

7. Whenever a municipality or province has been officially declared infested with this plant pest in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Order, and in order to promptly effect the control of this plant pest, the Chief of Constabulary and the provincial and municipal officials will be requested, pursuant to Section 12 of Act No. 3027, to assist and cooperate with the Director of Plant Industry in the strict enforcement of all Administrative Orders or instructions of the Director of Plant Industry relative to this plant pest.

8. Any person who, without lawful authority to do so, contravenes or violates any of the provisions of this Administrative Order, or who obstructs or impedes or assists in the obstructing or impeding the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Director of Plant Industry or their duly authorized representatives, the provincial governor or his duly authorized representatives, the municipal president or his duly authorized representatives or any other official or employees connected with or taking part in the campaign of controlling this plant pest, in the execution of any of the provisions of this Order, shall be liable to prosecution, and upon conviction shall suffer the penalty provided in Section 2746 of Act No. 2711 (Administrative Code), which is a fine not exceeding two hundred pesos, or imprisonment not exceeding thirty days, or both, in the discretion of the court.

9. This Administrative Order shall take effect on January 16, 1930.

A true copy:
SRM/nas/6/22/76