

Deterioration
of
Wooden objects by Insects

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PREFACE

It is well known that one of the major deterioration agencies of wooden cultural property is the insect. The Indian climate is very favourable for the breeding of insect pests, therefore damage to cultural properties by many types of insects is often detected on various art objects, especially wooden artifacts. In the tropical climate this indeed is a serious problem. In museums, we often come across objects such as furniture, musical instruments, implements, tools, sculptures, decoration pieces etc. made of wood. A large proportion of ethnographical collections consists of articles made of wood. In addition museums also have show-cases, pedestals, doors and windows which are wooden. Wood has also been widely used as a building material. Many museums have architectural parts carved out of wood. All these materials are quite often found to be infested by different species of insects.

As far as the insect problem in wood is concerned, several studies have been done from the point of view of wood industry. However, very few studies are known to have been conducted specifically for wooden objects in museums. We are aware that there can be an application of the methods of preservation used in the wood industry in museums as well. The aim of this Review is to provide, on the one hand a reasonably thorough description of the borers and their control, which are of significance to the conservators for preservation of wooden objects. Secondly it is likely that a person involved in the wood preservation industry may be very well acquainted with wood borers of local significance but may not know about rare species particularly those which are found in wood imported from another country. The aim of the Review is to provide such information as well.

It is hoped that this publication will be found useful for stimulating further research.

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