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RESISTANCE OF GREENHEART TO VARIOUS MARINE BORERS

To what extent greenheart timber resists attack by various kinds of marine borers is being ascertained in a test conducted by the Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis. Six years ago the laboratory placed specimens of this wood in the Gulf of Mexico, in waters infested with pholas, xylotrya, and limnoria.

A recent examination of the timbers showed that, except for a very slight trace of limnoria on the sapwood of one specimen, they had been uninjured by either xylotrya or limnoria, although these borers are very active in this vicinity. All the timbers, however, were severely attacked by pholas. The surfaces of each specimen were covered with burrows from three-fourths to one and one-half inches deep.

How far these burrows will extend with continued exposure remains to be seen, but it is not expected that they will extend much more than two inches. Pholas have not been found to bore very deep in wood. It is evident, however, that greenheart piles for use in pholas-infested waters should be made large enough to allow for reduction in size by pholas attack.

Other information which has been collected by the laboratory on the resistance of greenheart to marine borers in various localities is given in an article by A. K. Armstrong in the Engineering Record, Feb. 5, 1916.