

ON A LYCAENID BUTTERFLY ATTACKING
PINEAPPLES IN TRINIDAD. B. W. I.

W. Victor Harris. B.Sc.

INTRODUCTION.

The pineapple is a plant indigenous to Central America and, it is believed, Trinidad too. In this part of the world its cultivation has developed on commercial lines only in Cuba and Porto Rico, and to a lesser extent in Jamaica, with small areas in other islands, particularly Martinique.

There has been of late, indications of an increased
of
interest in the possibilities/fruit production on a large scale in Trinidad, the pineapple)being among the favoured fruits. For this reason, the pest dealt with below assumes a greater importance than it otherwise would have, though the usual freedom from pests of this plant focusses attention on any new one found.

In October 1926, young fruit on the plots of the St. Augustine Experiment Station of the local Department of Agriculture, were found to be exuding gum and shewing signs of insect attack. Though at the time there were few fruit, it being too early for the main crop, a high proportion of these were found to be damaged. It was reported that many fruit had been rendered unsaleable during the previous season by a similar attack.