

MEALY BUG ON COFFEE.

By John L. Froggatt, B.Sc., Entomologist.

During investigations into an outbreak of "mealy bug" on coffee in this Territory, it was ascertained that the pest had first appeared on the *Erythrina* in the plantation, and later spread to the *Leucaena glauca* and coffee; the *Erythrina* was a local species, cuttings having been obtained for planting from the scrub about 1 mile from the coffee area.

A search in the surrounding scrub revealed that the *Erythrina* growing in its wild state was also heavily infested with a "mealy bug" apparently the same species as that in the plantation. Specimens from both the scrub *Erythrina* and the cultivated coffee were sent to Mr. F. Laing, British Museum of Natural History, London, who has identified both series of specimens as *Ferrisia virgata*, Ckll, with the comment "this mealy bug is rather common on a wide range of host plants throughout the tropics".

In view of the fact that the indigenous species of *Erythrina* is the host of a pest with a wide range of host plants, care should be exercised in its introduction into any area where economic plants are cultivated.
