

We have seen the enemy...



Grasshoppers



Beetles



Nymphs



APHID

By CONNIE and ARNOLD KROCHMAL
Special to the STAR

Puerto Rico with its climate and plentiful rainfall is an insect paradise, and anyone who grows plant will sooner or later have to face up to the destruction caused by these animals.

Insect damage varies according to the different ways in which the insects attack plants, and can be a clue to the enemy. Some insects have an almost siphon-like mouth which they use to pierce leaves and suck out the juices. Damage from this broad class of insects can be spotted by the translucent, thin look of the leaves.

Chewing insects take big bites out of leaves resulting in holes and frayed edges.

Ants can be a nuisance, not because they attack plants, but because they work their way into lawns and create mounds and unattractive areas by piling up soil from their burrows.

Chemicals can put an end to the plant damage in and around the home. Insects that chew on leaves can be controlled with chemicals that leave a residue on the leaf. As the insect eats the treated leaf, it takes in the poison and soon dies. However the insects with the piercing mouth parts suck

juices from within the leaf, so leaf poison does not harm them and they must be treated with a chemical that hits them directly and kills them through body contact.

For house plants there are two very simple ways to take care of most of these problems. The first method calls for cotton swabs dipped in ordinary rubbing alcohol and then wiped on the leaves and stems where the insects, usually the scale types, can be seen. This is easy, has no risks to the user, and leaves no potential poison in the home. The other method is a little more difficult because the material is harder to find these days. The old fashioned wooden, sulfur tipped match head—first into the soil to a depth of about an inch will help keep other plant pests under control. The sulfur seems to move into the plant from the soil and keeps insects under control.

There are house sprays which can be bought in garden and nursery stores that can be used on house plants. Be sure that if you go to chemicals, indoors or outdoors, you stick to the recommendations for safe use which appear on the package or container. Apply outdoor sprays or dusts when there is no wind to keep the materials from drifting where they are not

wanted into your own home or your neighbors'.

Most insecticides are sold under a trade name. However the main constituent will be listed so that you can get some idea of what you are buying.

With so many insects around, and so many controls being sold, it is confusing to know where to begin. New on the markets for the past couple of years are the multi-use sprays. We suggest that you try to get one which has either malathion or diazinon in it, as both of these compounds are good controls for a wide range of insect pests on ornamentals. One of the most effective of this group is Ortho's Diazanone Insect Spray which is useful for shrubs, trees, and lawns, and controls ants, mites, leafhoppers, aphids, whiteflies, fleas, flies and other insects.

If you use a sprayer of any sort, be sure that it is clean before you put anything in it, and clean it thoroughly when you have finished. Any chemical insect control material should be kept locked up if at all possible, particularly if there are children in the family. Empty bags should be put into plastic bags for disposal and not stored in the house.

Here is a partial list of generic insect control materials most commonly sold.

Take this list with you when buying and check to see what you are buying.

Malathion — very available, it smells strong, useful to control scale, and some chewing insects.

Metaldehyde — the constituent for materials to control snails and slugs.

Nicotine sulfate — an old, and effective control for aphids and sucking insects.

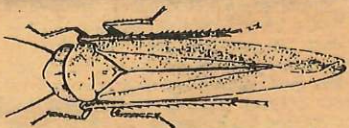
Supraide 2E — used for mites. **Rotenone** — a plant product tropical world used for both the sucking insects with non-toxic man.

Carbaryl — This should be avoided because it is tremendously toxic of which there are too few in Puerto Rico.

Ovex — Used to control mites; risky for ordinary use. We suggest avoided.

Chlorobenzilate — an excellent for mites.

This is a partial list of some of common insect pests of lawns, and mental plants in Puerto Rico: ants, mealy bugs, aphids, leafhoppers, lacewing bugs, trip flies, mole crickets, grasshopper, cane root weevil, may beetles and termites.



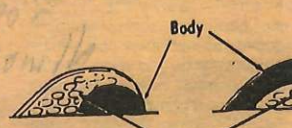
Leafhoppers



Thrips



Crawlers



ART

There is always a nearby wall

By FELIX BONILLA NORAT
Special to the STAR

Marta Matos Martínez has been appointed artist in residence at the Altos de Chavón Art Center in Santo Domingo.

Ms. Matos holds a master's degree in social studies from the UPR where she also worked for seven years as a social worker in the Public Health School before returning to school to study art full time at the Institute of Culture Plastic Arts School. As artist in residence, she will have the use of the center facilities, and will be available explain her aims and techniques to visitors and students.

"It is the latter opportunity which I seek," says she with vim, "for it is my peers from whom I can learn the most. The rest of it is a job. I shall also try to exhibit my works if possible, both at the galleries there and also outside in the Dominican world."

The Altos de Chavón galleries and workshops are part of the Gulf and Western empire which includes plantations, tourist accommodations and an antiqued arts and curios village that contains art galleries and workshops.

I first noticed Marta Matos' collagraphs when I did a review for the STAR on the



MARTA MATOS MARTINEZ

1981 Graphic Arts Biennial. Her walled-up door and very old San Juan wall drew my attention because of the curious tension between touchable inert matter (the wall with its forlorn door) and the distinct atmosphere of pathos and broken dreams behind the scene.

"I hate it when they wall up a door — it prevents my child from playing hide and seek and it prevents me from dreaming of the gardens that could be right in the middle of the block," she explained to me

just before she left as she was showing me the whole collagraphed series of "Puertas clausuradas." Other Sanjuaneros feel the same way — they would love more greenery than they see in the micro-plazas. And Marta's works sum it all up.

I see that most of the works are good, a few are masterful; all touchable, their textures luxuriantly realized on the printed paper. And except for one with the diagonals of a haunted stairway, all the compositional lines are horizontals or verticals: Mondrian would approve of the walled-in door on the planed wall. I like the crumbling textures with discreetly warm inky colors and limited controlled splendor. And then again there's that tension... It's quite a combination!

"Marta, why did you quit your seven-year job with the UPR School of Public Health, you a cum laude B.A. student and a master of arts?"

"It was a philosophical question. Young Puerto Rican girls were being 'spayed' as a matter of public policy. I felt it was my job as a social worker to instruct the girls about the full meaning of the operation. Many of them listened to my ruminations, so I had words and I quit to come back to my art beginnings."

She had begun art with Fran Cervoni

Brenes and Cecilia Orta Allend middle 50's, studied with Luisa Sánchez Felipe and George Warr 60's, with José Alicea and Cervo early 70's, and then full-time student 1977 at the School of Plastic / continuing for a full four years.

"But why didn't you wait for your diploma from the institute's school?"

"The diploma would have been by an inappropriate person. But show you my latest three collagraphs."

No walled-up doors now in the works. Textured walls are in the ground but on the touchable open walks in front of them, a real female figure struggles lamely within herself. Maybe she will grow.

Does she represent those young girls listening to Marta's ruminations? Are they Marta herself struggling with a world not up to expectations? There's always a wall nearby in San Juan — have you ever looked at your mind bent on liberation?

Marta will be a good ambassador to Santo Domingo. She can stand up needed even against a wall. Her work for a synthesis between art and work or art and social content may be realized.