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"Porky" is a Fast Worker
in Bark-Eating Contest.

Flagstaff, Ariz. --- If word gets around of what Dr. Walter P. Taylor of the Biological Survey is up to at the United States Forest Service's experimental station at Flagstaff, a migration of hungry porcupines may set in from all parts of the country. Here likely young "porkies" are being fenced in on forest areas with nothing in the world to do but gnaw bark from succulent western yellow pine seedlings and saplings. From the porcupine's standpoint this is much the same as if a small boy were to be compelled to enter a pie-eating contest at the Sunday-school picnic. The porky's picnic is, however, of considerable scientific interest to Dr. Taylor and the members of the Southwestern Forest Experiment Station. The fact that he will in six days eat something over twice his own superficial

area in tree bark goes far toward determining who's to blame for tree girdling in Arizona, where many young trees are killed every year in this manner.

In one series of experiments a single small porcupine weighing 8 pounds gnawed off 34 square inches of bark in a single night. Another of 13½ pounds weight disposed of 196 square inches in six days in a forest area about 90 feet square, choosing two large trees and 17 small ones. A third, a 12-pounder, took 300 square inches of bark in six days, girdling and killing 39 seedlings, and gnawing 32 others, as well as five large young pine trees. With 50 square inches of bark a day to his discredit, this porky is winner thus far.

Is Dry Weather an Invitation
to Bark-beetle Epidemics?

New Orleans, La. --- Experts in forest entomology of the Department of Agriculture have for some time been suspecting that there is a relation between weather conditions and the sudden and disastrous attacks of bark-beetles in our pine forests. These epidemics (perhaps one should call them "episilvics") in southern yellow pine forests are known to follow on many occasions periods of unusually dry weather, and a recent statement by Mr. Lenthall Wyman of the Southern Forest Experiment Station regarding his observations among turpentine trees shows a very plausible reason why this should be so.

"Turpentine operators in the Southern States generally recognize," Mr. Wyman stated, "that a prolonged dry spell during the chipping season slows down resin production by the trees and results in "dry faces," or exposed portions of the wood that are not covered by resin flow. Where the resin is flowing so sluggishly, the beetles can not be drowned out when they attack, as they are when the trees are in their most vigorous condition, and so they are able to injure seriously if not kill the trees before wet weather sets in and the trees' normal functions are resumed.