

MOTHS PRODUCE LIGHT

UFOs 'could be insect swarms'

WASHINGTON, Thursday (AAP-AFP). — Flying saucers could well be nothing but swarms of insects producing an electric discharge while crossing an atmospheric magnetic field, according to two scientists writing in the November issue of the US magazine *Applied Optics*.

The two scientists, Mr Philip Callahan and Mr R. W. Mankin, both working at the Federal Department of Agriculture's Biological Research Laboratory in Florida, said there was a close relation between the reported ap-

pearance of unidentified flying objects between 1965 and 1968 in Utah and the presence at the same time of swarms of spruce budworm moths.

The scientists had carried out experiments which showed that insects in this species produced visible glowing discharges when placed in a magnetic field. Thus, the confusion with UFOs might be explained.

Swarms of moths could reach 102 kilometres in length and 25 kilometres in width and the light they generated could be seen from a great distance

could be seen from a great distance
giving rise to reports of UFO sightings.