

NEWS RELEASE  
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## “MARBE” EVIDENCE IN BOOTJACK GARDEN

### BACKYARD HORTICULTURE

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If you recall, a few weeks ago we wrote about planting broccoli in the garden. Most of our articles are based on first hand information as an old-time gardener (well, I only have a year in the county, but I am old!). Good advice as it was, there is more to the story. As those of us old-timers in Bootjack know, there is the legend of “Marbe.” This garden monster is known to devour the one vegetable even President George B. the First won’t eat – broccoli.

After carefully selecting only the best plants at the nursery, spacing according to University recommendations and watering in, the creature appeared. Not in our presence, but sneaking in at night. Although my now 1-½ year old “temporary” deer fence looked to be working well, a two-foot square hole on the back side must be the entry point of the “Marbe.” This is known since it would be impossible that the gate could have been left open. The horticulturist in the family simply does not make such mistakes and the chief cook is not completely certain where the garden even is located (a little joke, Dear).

Using the vast resources of the internet, the biology of the “Marbe” was actually not even listed. What is known – it has at least two legs, as confirmed by the fact that it can move from the garden to somewhere else undetected. Its dexterity is probably due to being so healthy from eating broccoli!

As part of the farm advisor’s responsibility, we have undertaken a scientific study of the “Marbe.” If other gardens in Mariposa have evidence, or better yet, actual contact, with this

monster, we will start to document at least its range in the county. With this information, we can apply for a multi-million dollar federal grant to determine, 1. Is it on the Endangered Species list, 2. Does it occur outside of the Bootjack area, 3. Can it fly, and 4. Is it really more healthy from eating broccoli?

While we usually offer a free University of California leaflet on topics discussed, it could be a while until we have the facts on the “Marbe” – “Mariposa Broccoli Eater.”

P. S. It struck again last night, a no-moon one at that. The fence is now totally demolished and not a broccoli leaf is left, even after replanting a full 6-pack. The hunt is on!

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