On motion the report of the Nominating Committee was accepted and the Secretary was instructed to cast an unanimous ballot for the election of the persons nominated.

Following the transaction of the above business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
A. N. Tissot, Secretary

MELIPOTIS ACANTOIDES (Guen) IN FLORIDA
J. R. Watson

The Royal Poinciana, Delonix regia (Baj) Raf. is usually quite free from serious insect pests, but for the past two years we have been receiving complaints of a caterpillar which defoliates the trees. We received the first larvae and pupae from St. Petersburg on January 14, 1942. The moths emerged in about a month and were identified by Mr. Carl Heinrick as Melipotis acantoides, a moth belonging to the Phalaenidae (Noctuidae). This moth is listed in Holland’s “Moth Book” as M. sinulis Harvey. Holland states that it ranges from Texas and Arizona, south. He does not mention Florida as in its range. Under the same synonym it is listed in Grossbeck’s “List of Florida Lepidoptera” as from Miami. No host plant is given.

The insect seems to be about as widely spread in Florida as the Royal Poinciana, occurring from St. Petersburg, south, to Key West. Several observers report that, at least the larger caterpillars, seek shelter in the ground during the daytime and come out at night to feed. They will also collect under any bank or shade that is provided on the tree. There, evidently, are several broods a year, as the pest, at least in Key West, is active the year around. There are many points in its life history that need clearing up and this notice is being written, in the hope that our readers, who may have the opportunity to observe this pest, will contribute something to our knowledge of its distribution and its habits. Attempts to raise it in the laboratory, on other legumes, which are fairly closely related to the Royal Poinciana, has uniformly failed.

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