HERSE CINGULATUS Fab as an armyworm

The caterpillars of this moth are not uncommon on sweet potato vines, but one seldom sees many in a place. They occur scattered over the fields. However, the first week of July, 1944, they occurred in armies in several fields near Santa Fe, in Alachua County, Florida. They had completely stripped the leaves from one 30-acre field and had destroyed fully half of the leaves of another field of equal acreage. Several other fields in the neighborhood suffered lesser damage, the caterpillars completely stripping the plants of their leaves, including veins and mid-rib and had fed extensively on the petioles. They had evidently entered from adjoining fields and were making a complete destruction of the leaves as they moved forward, marching across the field like an army worm. Practically every leaf was destroyed. A few feet beyond the zone of destruction, practically none were to be observed. Behind this active front, there would be a scattering of worms but nothing left of the sweet potato vines except the up-standing petioles of the leaves and the stems. There were literally hundreds of thousands of the caterpillars in the fields. The armyworm habit was undoubtedly forced upon them as they consumed the potato leaves behind them, forcing them to move to new pasture. Most of the caterpillars were in an advanced stage of their development, dark brown with black stripes in color, or green with heavy black stripes bordered with yellow and the sides with prominent V-shaped black markings. A few half grown caterpillars were observed. The surrounding fields and woods carried a considerable supply of wild morning-glory vines. These were probably the source of the infestation. Santa Fe is quite a center for the cultivation of sweet potatoes. This insect gives promise of being a first class pest.

J. R. Watson

THE DAMAGE OF MELIPOTIS ACONTIOIDES TO THE ROYAL POINCIANA

J. R. WATSON

The Royal Poinciana is justly famous as one of the most beautiful shade trees in southern Florida. Until the past three years, we had received no complaints of insect damage to these trees, but in January 1942, as reported in the Florida Entomolo-