A NEW U. S. RECORD FOR PARAPORYNX DIMINUTALIS (LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE). A POSSIBLE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENT FOR HYDRILLA VERTICILLATA1—(Note):
While preparing plastic pools (3.05 m diam, 0.8 m deep) for herbicide-testing experiments on Hydrilla verticillata Royle, USDA technicians at Fort Lauderdale Agricultural Research Center reported (to Del Fosse) that “worms” were eating the plants. Upon examination of the plants, several small pyralid caterpillars plus a few adult pyralids were noted. Considerable damage to Hydrilla was caused by the larvae. A pool was immediately covered with plastic screening; and during the next 2 days, 66 adult pyralids were collected from the covered pool. Mr. John Heppner, Dep. of Entomology, University of Florida, Gainesville, identified a few of the specimens as the common pyralid Paraporynx allionialis allionialis Walker, but most were Paraporynx diminutalis Snellen (Fig. 1), heretofore known only from Pakistan to southeast Asia. We do not know how or when this species was introduced. Additional specimens were sent to Dr. D. C. Ferguson, Research Entomologist, Systematic Entomology Laboratory, II & BII Agr. Res. Serv., USDA, U. S. National Museum, Wash., D.C. 20560, who confirmed the Paraporynx identification. This pyralid has potential for biological control of Hydrilla (Baloch, G. M., and S. Ullah. 1975. Proc. Intern. Symp. Biol. Contr. of Weeds, Montpellier, 1973. 3:17-26.) and has been studied in Pakistan, supported by the USDA under Public

Fig. 1.—Male (left) and female *Parapoynx diminutalis* Snellen.

Law 480, and in Malaysia by the University of Florida in cooperation with the University of Malaysia (Varghese, G., and G. Singh. 1975. Proc. Regional Seminar on Noxious Vegetation in the Tropics and Sub Tropics. New Delhi, 1973. In Press.) Specificity testing on U. S. plants is contemplated. Acknowledgments: Without the careful attentiveness of USDA technician Mr. Jeff Young, this insect might have gone unnoticed. We are very grateful to J. Heppner and D. C. Ferguson for identifications. The Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District will be providing funds, for which we are very grateful, for basic research on this moth. Ernest S. Del Fosse, Graduate Research Assistant, Univ. of Fla., Dep. of Entomology and Nematology, Gainesville, Fla. 32611; B. David Perkins, Research Entomologist, USDA ARS SR, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33314; and Kerry K. Steward, Acting Location Leader and Plant Physiologist, USDA ARS SR, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33314.