

Introduction.

The sweet potato pyralid moth (Megastes grandalis Guen) was first described from Brazil by Gueneé (Dett. and Pyr, p. 376, 1854). There have been no other reports until Urich recorded it as a pest in the Reports of the Department of Agriculture for Trinidad and Tobago for the years 1919 and 1920. It is well distributed throughout the island, and during certain seasons is a very serious pest, which undoubtedly is responsible for the high price of sweet potatoes in Trinidad since quantities are imported from the Northern Islands where the moth so far has not been recorded.

This paper has been prepared in the hope that a description of the stages of this moth will be useful to enable it to be recognised if it finds entry into other countries.