Melipotis indomita Walker in Louisiana

by

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Fig. 2. Melipotis indomita captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi.NE of Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 145

Fig. 1. Melipotis indomita: males a-d, females e-h.

The medium sized (40-55 mm wingspan) and sexually dimorphic noctuid species Melipotis indomita Walker (Fig.1.) belongs to a mostly neotropical genus. Richards (1939) reported 13 species of Melipotis to occur within the United States, 12 species due to northerly range extension or strays. The types of Melipotis are apparently mostly in the British Museum. Richard's investigation was based on material determined by William Schaus in the U.S. National Museum. M. indomita is somewhat variable in maculation in both sexes, as illustrated in the examples (Fig. 1). M. indomita is reported in literature to be larval pest on mesquite. Brown (1945) reported mesquite Prospolis juliflora var. glandulosa Cock (a large shrub or small tree) to occur at well established locations in extreme northwest Louisiana (Caddo and Bossier Parishes). M. indomita has also been touted as a biological control of Mesquite. Richards listed dates May-July and

Fig. 3. Parish records by this author.
distribution in the US from Arizona and Colorado to Georgia, Delaware and New York. Forbes (1954) reported *indomita* from Missouri and Maine. Ten species of *Melipotis* are listed by Heppner (2003). Heppner states *indomita* ranges from West Indies, Mexico to Brazil, and Maine to Florida to Minnesota to Texas with dates May-July and November. Covell (1984) says *indomita* is common occurring May-September. Knudson & Bordelon (1999) list 11 species of *Melipotis* from Texas including *indomita*; ten of which are illustrated by Knudson & Bordelon (2004). These authors indicate *indomita* is the commonest species of *Melipotis* and ranges from Florida to California. The type locality of *indomita* is Brazil. In Louisiana, *indomita* appears to have at least four broods (Fig. 2). The parish records are shown in Fig. 3.

**Literature cited**


1-Jan

n = 145

1-Feb

12
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