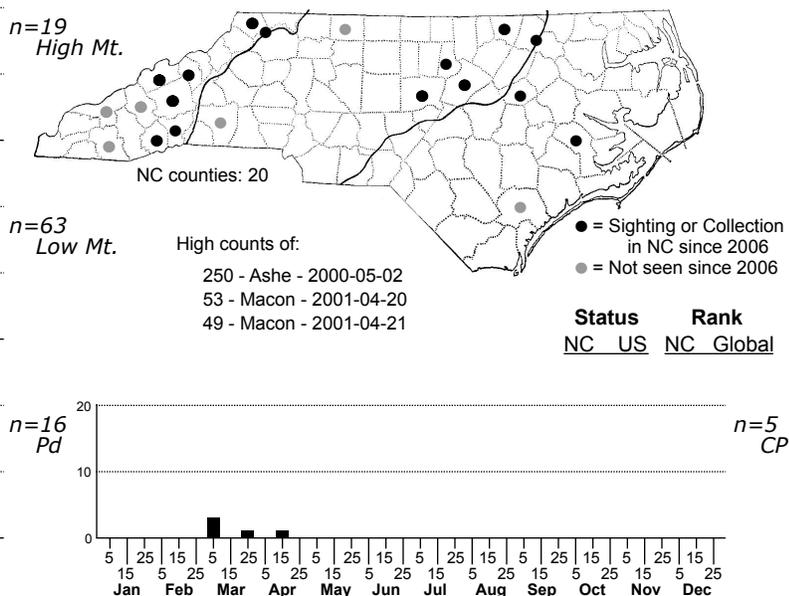
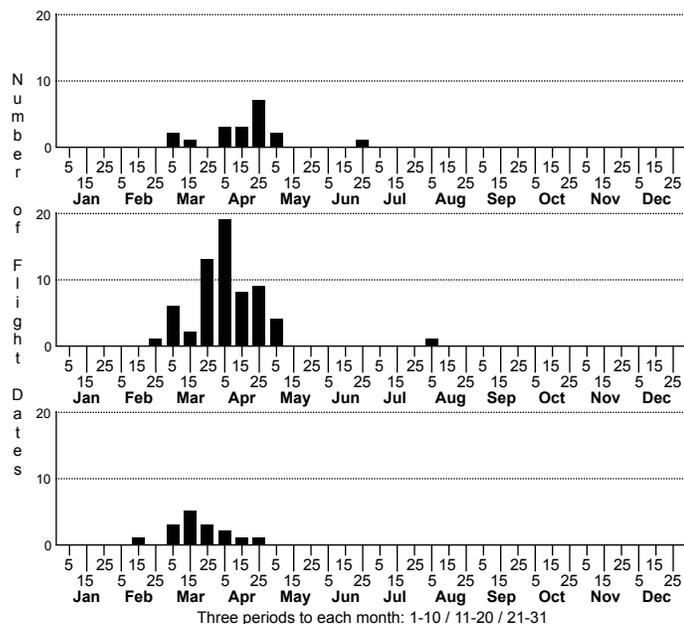


Orthosia rubescens Ruby Quaker



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Orthosiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 22 species (two others provisional) that occur in this genus north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 210); five have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Hampson (1905); Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The ground color of the forewings is luteous, variably overlain by reddish-brown, ranging from predominantly reddish to completely suffused with gray (Forbes, 1954). Usually heavily marked with reddish flecks and a reddish band is usually present between the orbicular and reniform. Both the orbicular and reniform are large; the orbicular is usually filled with the luteous ground color and the reniform usually has a black spot in the lower portion. The antemedian and postmedian lines can be obscure, complete or incomplete, sometimes represented by a series of dark dots on the veins. The subterminal is often obscure and never as cleanly marked as in *revicta* (Forbes, 1954). In *revicta*, *alurina*, and *hibisci*, all of which can have some reddish shading, the underlying ground color is grayish without of the luteous that is characteristic of *rubescens*.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Forests and woodlands (Wagner et al., 2011)

FOOD: Larvae feed on many species of shrubs and trees, including conifers; also feed on forbs to some extent. Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list maple (<i>Acer</i>), birch (<i>Betula</i>), chestnut (<i>Castanea</i>), beech (<i>Fagus</i>), holly (<i>Ilex</i>), American Hop-hornbeam (<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>), cherry (<i>Prunus</i>), oak (<i>Quercus</i>), currant (<i>Ribes</i>), elderberry (<i>Sambucus</i>), greenbrier (<i>Smilax</i>), hemlock (<i>Tsuga</i>), blueberry (<i>Vaccinium</i>), and <i>Viburnum</i>.

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S3S4]

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: