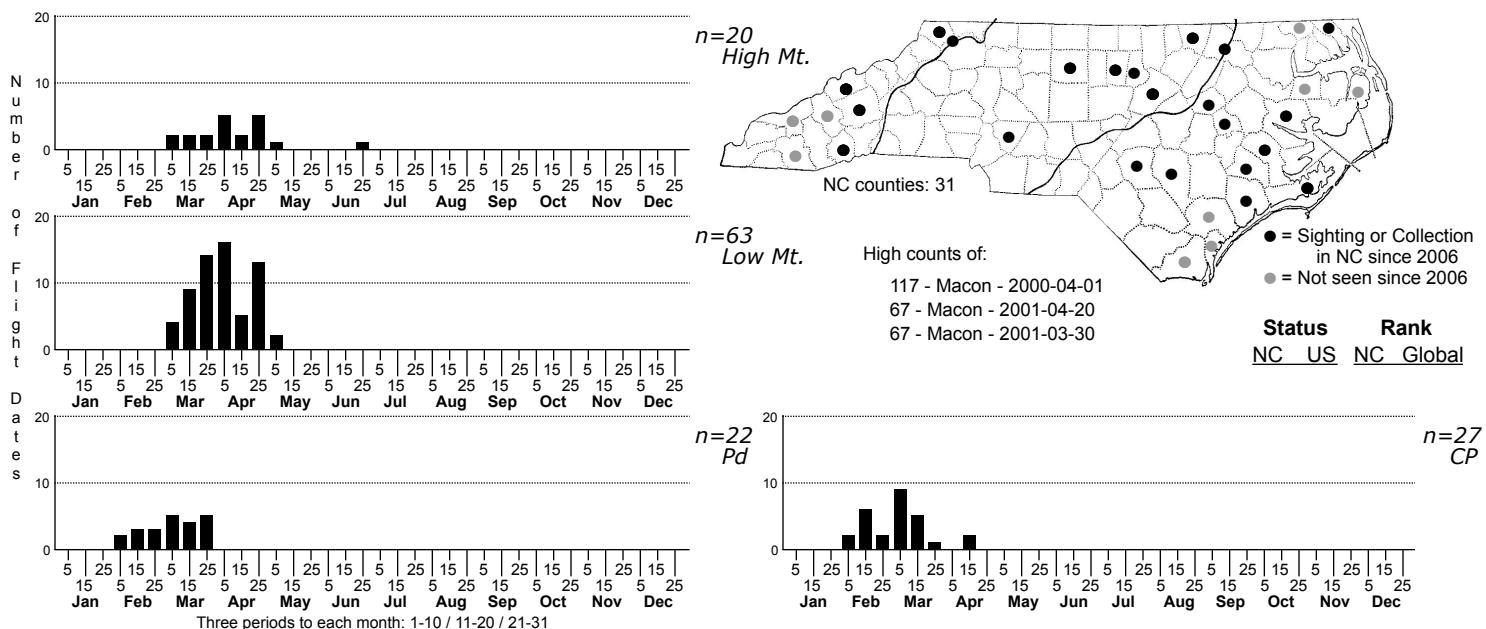


Orthosia hibisci Speckled Green Fruitworm Moth



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:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: Very similar in coloration and patterning to alurina but usually has a continuous and distinct pale subterminal preceded by dark bars (Forbes, 1954).

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records come from all types of hardwood forests across the state, from maritime forest on the barrier islands to northern hardwoods on the tops of our highest peaks.

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous, feeding on both hardwoods, conifers, and shrubs. Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list maple (*Acer*), birch (*Betula*), Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), ash (*Fraxinus*), larch (*Larix*), apple (*Malus*), spruce (*Picea*), poplar (*Populus*), cherry (*Prunus*), oak (*Quercus*), currant (*Ribes*), willow (*Salix*), and elm (*Ulmus*). In North Carolina, larvae have been recorded feeding on Great Rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*), Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcata*), cherry, River Birch (*Betula nigra*), Smooth Blackhaw (*Viburnum prunifolium*), and Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*).

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: