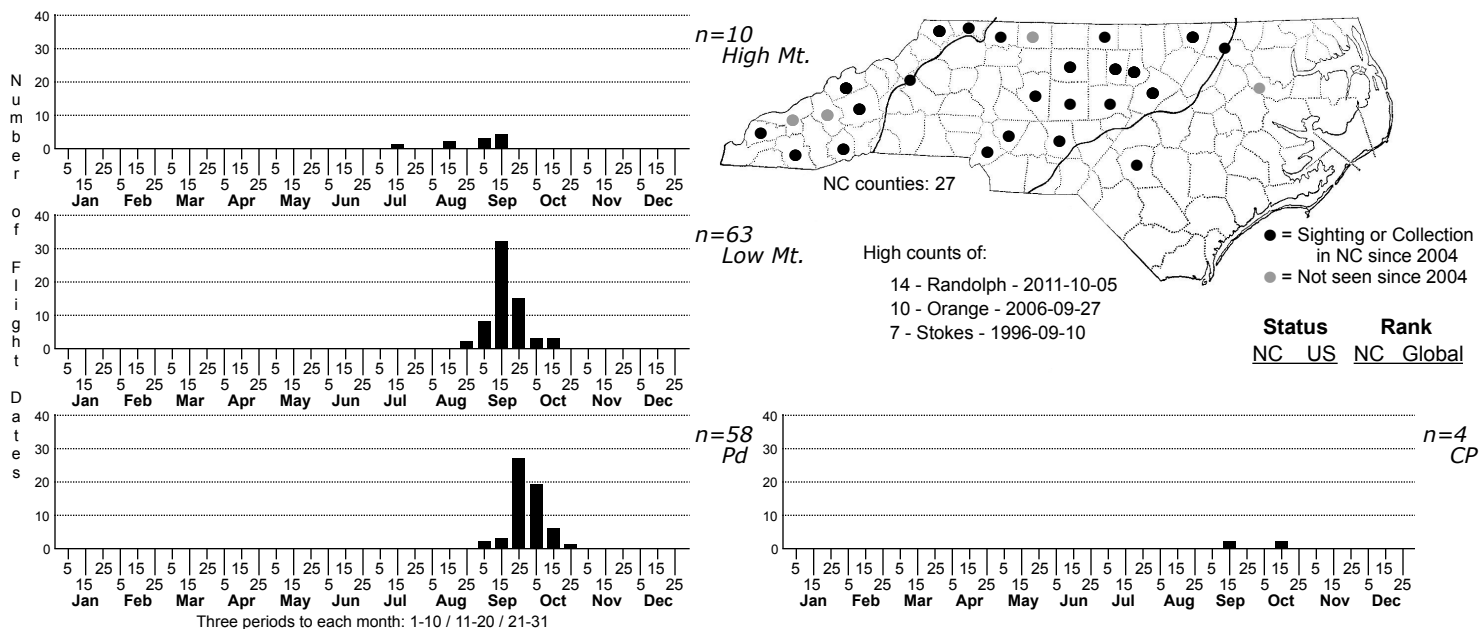


Nephelodes minians Bronzed Cutworm Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Tholerini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This is a New World genus with one species from Colombia and 5 from the United States and Canada. A single species reaches North Carolina.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1954); Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: This coppery-colored, large noctuid species is quite distinct and unlikely to be confused with any other species largely because of its size and color. Our populations have a dark colored form in addition to the normal reddish form. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Found widely over the Mountains and Piedmont but Coastal Plain records are concentrated along the brownwater floodplain of the lower Roanoke

FLIGHT COMMENT: The species is single brooded across the state but most prominent in the lower mountains and piedmont. The appearance of the adult is a sure sign that fall is about to come. In flight for about 6 weeks, sometimes the most common species in light traps this time of year.

HABITAT: We do not have any records from coastal dune grasslands or pine savannas; our sole Coastal Plain record comes, in fact, from somewhat disturbed ridges surrounded on all sides by swamp forest. In the Piedmont and Mountains, records come both upland and bottomland sites and include both old fields and forests.

FOOD: Oligophagous, feeding on grasses, including turfgrass, cereal crops, corn, and native grasses (Wagner et al., 2011). Occasionally feeds on forbs or the new leaves of woody plants.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults come readily to light, to bait and to flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S5

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

COMMENTS: Most of our surveys have been conducted in natural areas, where this species is relatively frequent. However, it is likely to be far more widespread and numerous in pastures and other semi-natural grasslands, as well as in some corn fields and other croplands