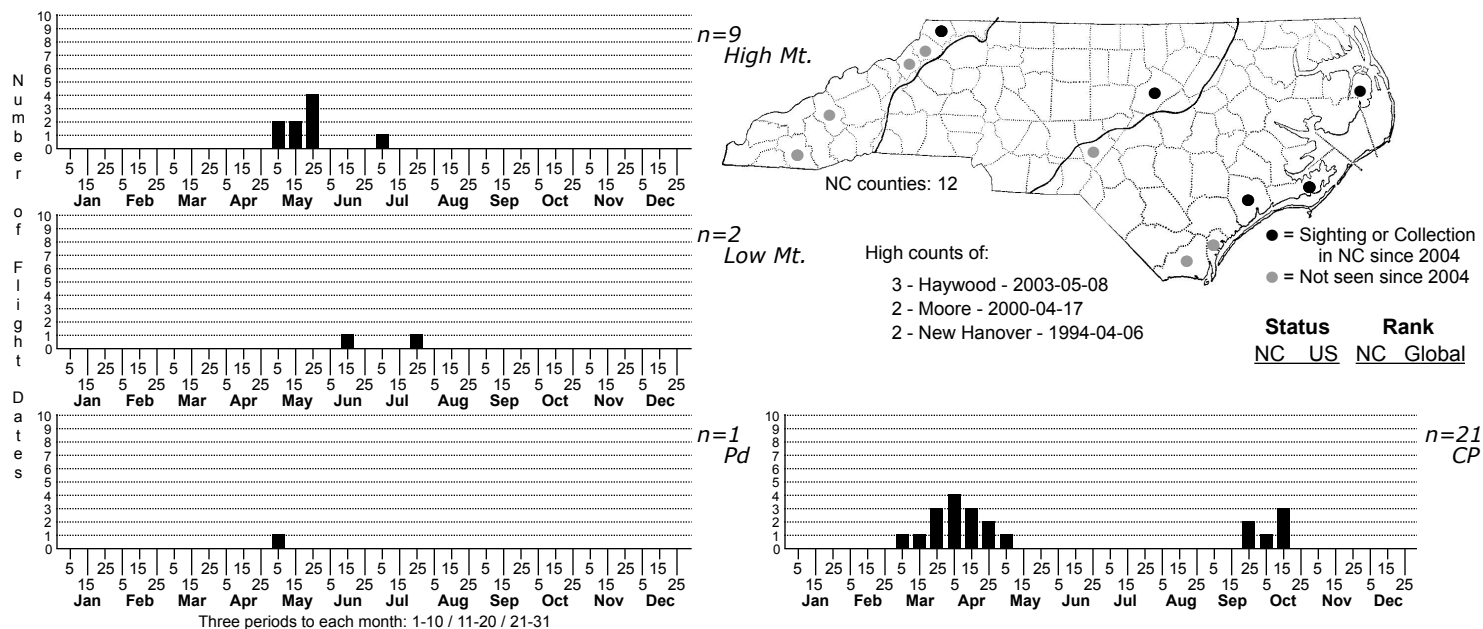


## *Trichopolia oviduca* Ruddy Quaker Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Eriopygini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: A New World genus of some 15 species, 1 from Mexico, 1 from Eastern North America and North Carolina and the remainder from the American West (Lafontaine et al., 2014).

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Crumb (1956); Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: This species is likely to be confused with *Homorthodes furfurata*, *Pseudorthodes vecors* or *Orthodes cynica*. Males and females usually have a well marked yellowish subterminal line, the others do not. Individuals lacking the subterminal line may require dissection until one becomes familiar with the species. Specimens are uniform brown or in the mountains reddish, some with a well marked pattern of lines.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably found over most of the state, although we have few records from the Piedmont and Low Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: While more records are needed, the species appears to be single brooded in the mountains (May-June) but double brooded in the Coastal Plain (April, October). The two broods occur at the beginning of the season and at the end, a very peculiar pattern. Records from the Piedmont are too few to see a pattern.

HABITAT: Lafontaine et al. (2014) note that *T. oviduca* is found only in sandy habitats in parts of its range; this is consistent with our records from maritime dunes and Longleaf Pine-dominated sandhills in the Coastal Plain. We also have records from non-sandy, forested habitats, including both dry and mesic sites in the Mountains. Most of those records, however, appear to come from sites where the canopy is fairly open or where artificial openings are present. We do not have records from floodplains, peatlands, or other types of wet habitats.

FOOD: Larvae appear to be general feeders on low growing plants and grasses but there are remarkably few actual records. Larvae once found in January on withered mullein leaves (Crumb, 1956).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Adults respond to light and bait but have not been reported from flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: Although we have relatively few records for this species, it has a wide distribution in the state and uses a broad range of habitats, including at least some disturbed areas. It thus seems relatively secure within the state.