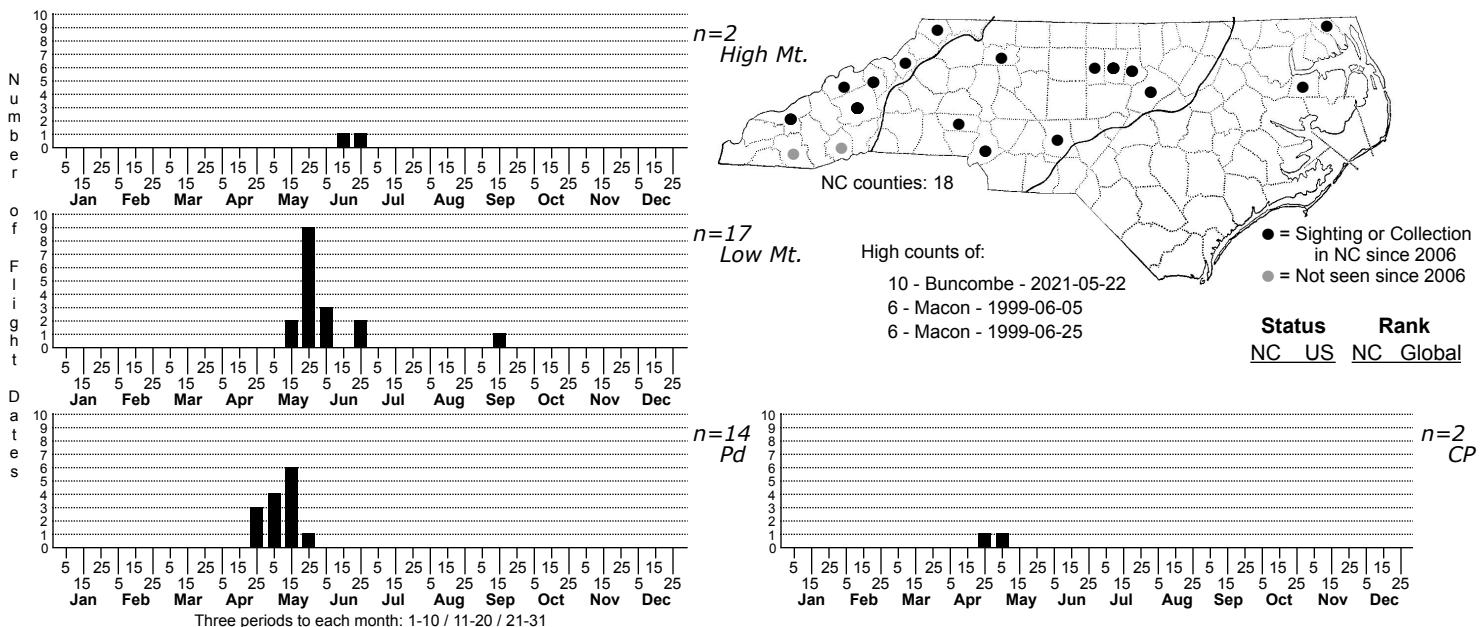


Mathildana newmanella Newman's Mathildana



FAMILY: Oecophoridae SUBFAMILY: Oecophorinae TRIBE: Oecophorini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: <i>Mathildana</i> contains only two species, and both are found in eastern North America.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Leckie and Beadle (2018)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Clarke (1941); Hedges (1974)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinctive species with orangish palps, a white-tipped antenna, and two orange dorsal streaks on the forewing. The following detailed description is primarily based on that of Clarke (1941). The labial palp is orange-yellow and the third segment has a brownish suffusion. The face, tegula, collar, and basal segment of antenna is brassy. The remainder of the antenna is shining purplish black except for about eight terminal segments, which are silvery white. The head, thorax and forewing are dusky black with a pronounced purple luster. There are two conspicuous longitudinal orange-yellow streaks on the forewing that almost touch. One extends from the base along the fold to the basal fifth; the second is in the cell and extends slightly past the middle of the wing. The cilia are fuscous and lighter apically. The hindwing is dark fuscous and the cilia lighter. The legs are shining brassy, and the abdomen is fuscous above with a faint purple sheen. <i>Mathildana flipria</i> is very similar, but the orange-yellow streaks are greatly reduced in size and sometimes missing entirely.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Mathildana newmanella</i> is found in eastern North America in southern Canada (Ontario eastward to Nova Scotia) and much of the eastern US. In the US the range extends from the New England states westward to Minnesota, Illinois, and Missouri and as far south as northern Georgia, northern Alabama, and central Mississippi. As of 2020, our records span most of the state except the central and southern portions of the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations are univoltine and have a short flight season. The adults have been recorded from April through August in different areas of the range, with a strong seasonal spike in May and June. As of 2020, our records are from late April through mid-September, with most from May through the first week of June.

HABITAT: Populations are generally associated with hardwood forests where they feed beneath the bark of dead trees and logs. Our records come from wooded residential neighborhoods and urban parks, as well as natural communities such as mesic hardwood forests in the mountains and Piedmont, and swamplands on the Coastal Plain.

FOOD: The larvae feed under the bark of dead trees and probably eat fungi and other elements of the microflora and fauna. Larvae were found at one site beneath the bark of apple logs, and at a second site beneath bark on an upright tree (Hedges, 1974).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults occasionally appear at lights, but are also diurnally active and can be found perched on foliage in forested settings. Most of our records are based on daytime observations of adults.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: Populations occur nearly statewide and are seemingly secure given the number of records that we have and the fact that observers can easily overlook these tiny moths.