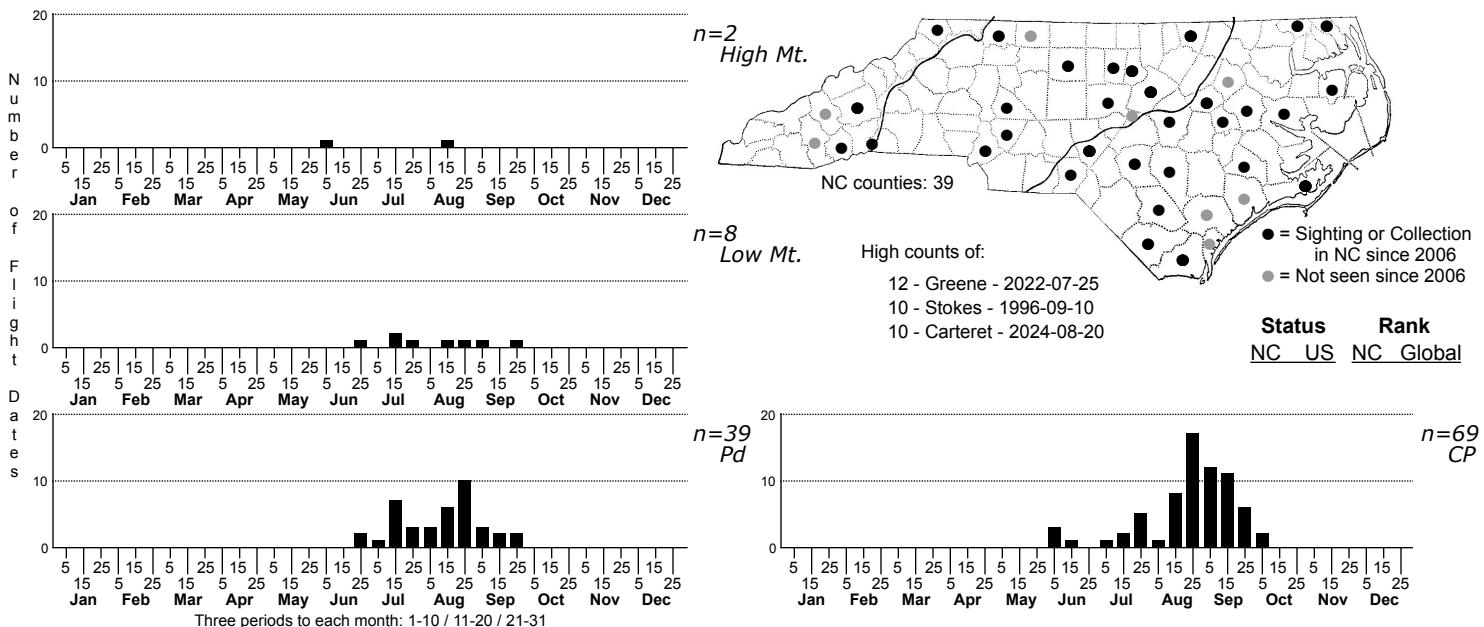


# *Chloridea virescens* Tobacco Budworm Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Heliothinae TRIBE:  
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: <i>Chloridea virescens</i> and <i>subflexa</i> are similar in color and in having three straight lines running across the forewings. The hindwings provide the clearest way to separate the two: both have white hindwings, but <i>virescens</i> has a strong blackish or reddish margin, whereas <i>subflexa</i> has only a faint gray marginal band, if any. BugGuide also suggests that rusty coloring on the forelegs is characteristic of <i>virescens</i>, which appears to be true for at least some individuals but examination of specimens in our collection does not indicate a complete correlation between foreleg color and hindwing color and pattern (J.B. Sullivan, pers. obs.). We continue to recommend that photographs be submitted that show at least a portion of the outer margin of the hindwings.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous, feeding on a wide range of plants, including many crop species. Wagner (2005) specifically lists soybean, cotton, tobacco, geranium, ground-cherry, and rose. In North Carolina, larvae have been observed on Indian Jointvetch (<i>Aeschynomene indica</i>), Catnip (<i>Nepeta cataria</i>), Cultivated Tobacco (<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i>), beardtongue (<i>Penstemon</i> sp.), coneflower (<i>Rudbeckia</i> sp.), Sicklepod (<i>Senna obtusifolia</i>), Hairy Leafcup (<i>Smallanthus uvedalia</i>), Purple False Foxglove (<i>Agalinis purpurea</i>), <i>Silphium</i>, and Garden Tomato (<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>).

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: