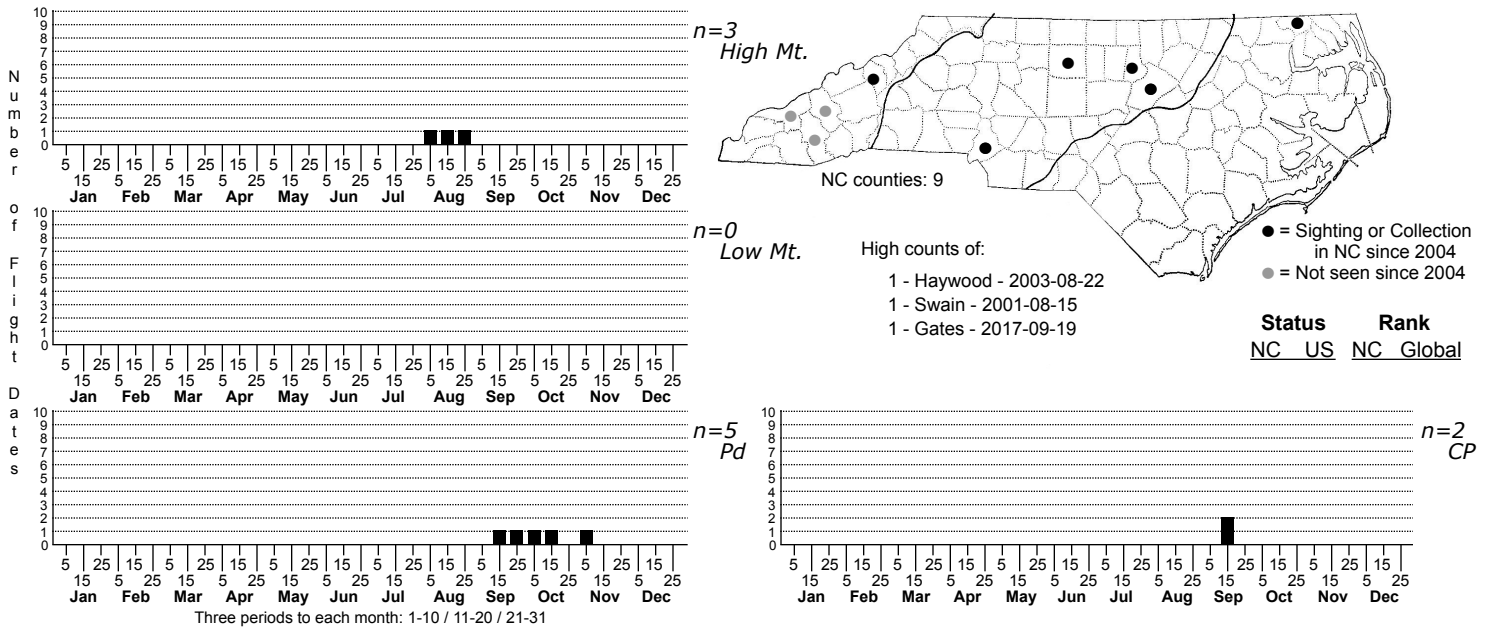


Pennisetia marginatum Raspberry Crown Borer Moth



FAMILY: Sesiidae SUBFAMILY: Tinthiinae TRIBE: Pennisetiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Of the 133 members of the Sesiidae family that occur in North American north of Mexico, 30 have been recorded in North Carolina, and *marginata* is the lone representative of the genus. The taxonomy of some groups in this family remains vexing. Some sesiid, known broadly as clearwing borers, are significant pests of commercial crops.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Eichlin and Duckworth (1988)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: Thorax is brownish-black with narrow yellow along margins, with a pair of yellow spots at the base of the forewing. Abdomen is cylindrical in shape, brownish-black, and ringed with yellow on posterior edge of all segments except 1 and 2, either of which may be ringed with yellow anteriorly or unmarked (Eichlin & Duckworth, 1988), and abdominal segment 3 bears a well-developed dorsal tuft (Forbes, 1923). Forewing hyaline and edged broadly in ochraceous-brown and bears an ochraceous-brown discal mark. Hindwing hyaline with narrow margins. Legs yellow, antennae dark. Sexes similar but male has strongly pectinate antennae (bipectinate at base) and possesses an anal tuft, which is dark brown or black mixed with yellow; female larger, terminal segment of abdomen is yellow. Wing length 8-16 mm (Eichlin & Duckworth, 1988).

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Fields, forest edges, and disturbed habitats where its food plants are found.

FOOD: *Rubus* spp. (Roseaceae), such as blackberry and raspberry (Eichlin & Duckworth, 1988).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: May be searched for around food plants. Though not attracted to lights or bait, males may be lured to traps using synthetic, chemically engineered sex attractants (Eichlin and Duckworth, 1988).

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

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

COMMENTS: This species closely mimics a Yellow Jacket hornet (*Vespula* sp.). A not uncommon day-flier, but generally inconspicuous and only infrequently encountered in natural settings.