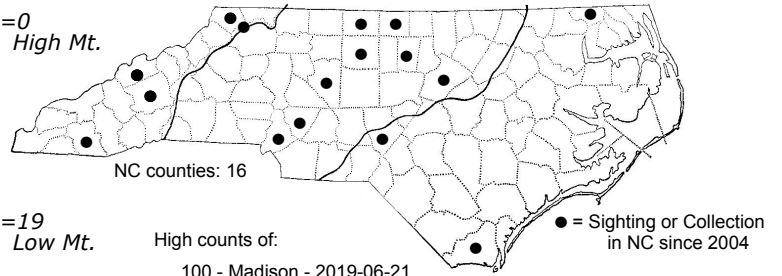
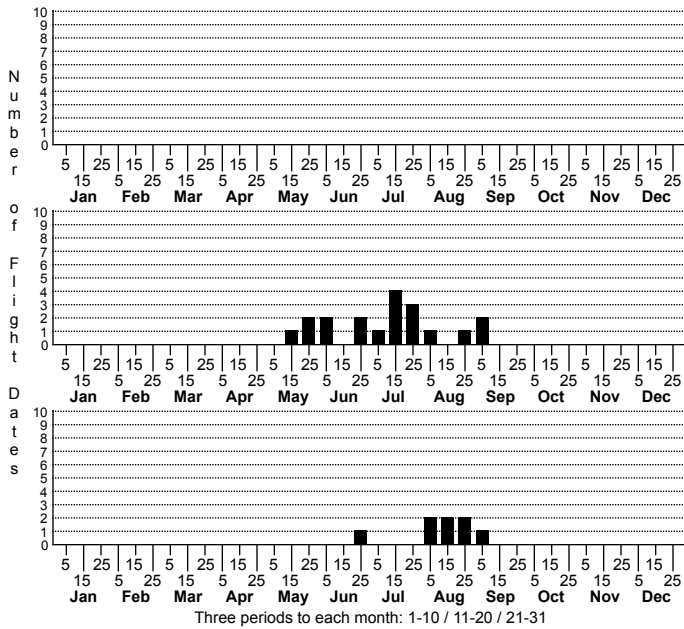
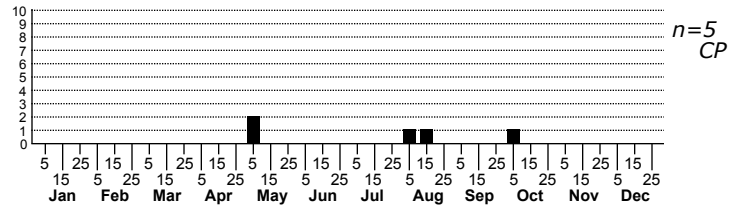


*Synanthedon exitiosa* Peachtree Borer Moth



High counts of:  
 100 - Madison - 2019-06-21  
 40 - Madison - 2019-07-29  
 35 - Madison - 2019-08-09

Status	Rank
NC	US
NC	Global



FAMILY: Sesiidae SUBFAMILY: Sesiinae TRIBE: Synanthedonini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Of the 133 members of the Sesiidae family that occur in North America north of Mexico, 30 have been recorded in North Carolina, with members of the genus *Synanthedon* making up half of that number. The taxonomy of some groups in this family remains vexing. Sesiids are broadly referred to as clearwing borers.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Eichlin and Duckworth (1988)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: Strongly sexually dimorphic. Male: Thorax shiny bluish-black, with narrow, pale yellow, subdorsal lines. Abdomen shiny bluish-black and proportionally long and thin with narrow to fine, pale yellow rings on the posterior margin of some or all segments (Eichlin & Duckworth, 1988). Rings may not be discernible on worn individuals. Anal tuft long, wedge shaped, black with pale lateral edges (Eichlin & Duckworth, 1988). Forewing hyaline with narrow, black margins and black discal bar; hindwing hyaline with narrow, black margins. Both exhibit a characteristic amber tint (Taft, Smitley, and Snow, 2004). Female: Larger and stouter than male. Thorax shiny bluish-black and unmarked. Abdomen shiny bluish-black and unmarked but for a wide, orange “belt” completely encircling segment 4. Forewing opaque, shiny black, and unmarked. Hindwing hyaline with wide, black margins. Wing length 6-15 mm (Eichlin & Duckworth, 1988).

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Forested areas and orchards where host plants are found.

FOOD: A recognized, destructive pest of peach (*Prunus persica*), but also attacks other *Prunus* spp. such as almond, apricot, plum, and cherry (Eichlin & Duckworth, 1988).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Not attracted to lights or bait, but females may be seen around food plants. Males are unlikely to be seen unless lured to traps using synthetic, chemically engineered sex attractants, to which they show a strong affinity (see Taft, Smitley, & Snow, 2004, for list of species-specific pheromone blends).

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S4S5

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

COMMENTS: Given its economic importance, this is among the most-studied of sesiids. It’s a common and widespread species in North Carolina and is easily attracted to pheromone lures. While sample size has been small, DNA barcoding points to *S. exitiosa* being a complex of about three species (Bo Sullivan, pers. comm.). But until this puzzle is sorted out we treat it as a single species.