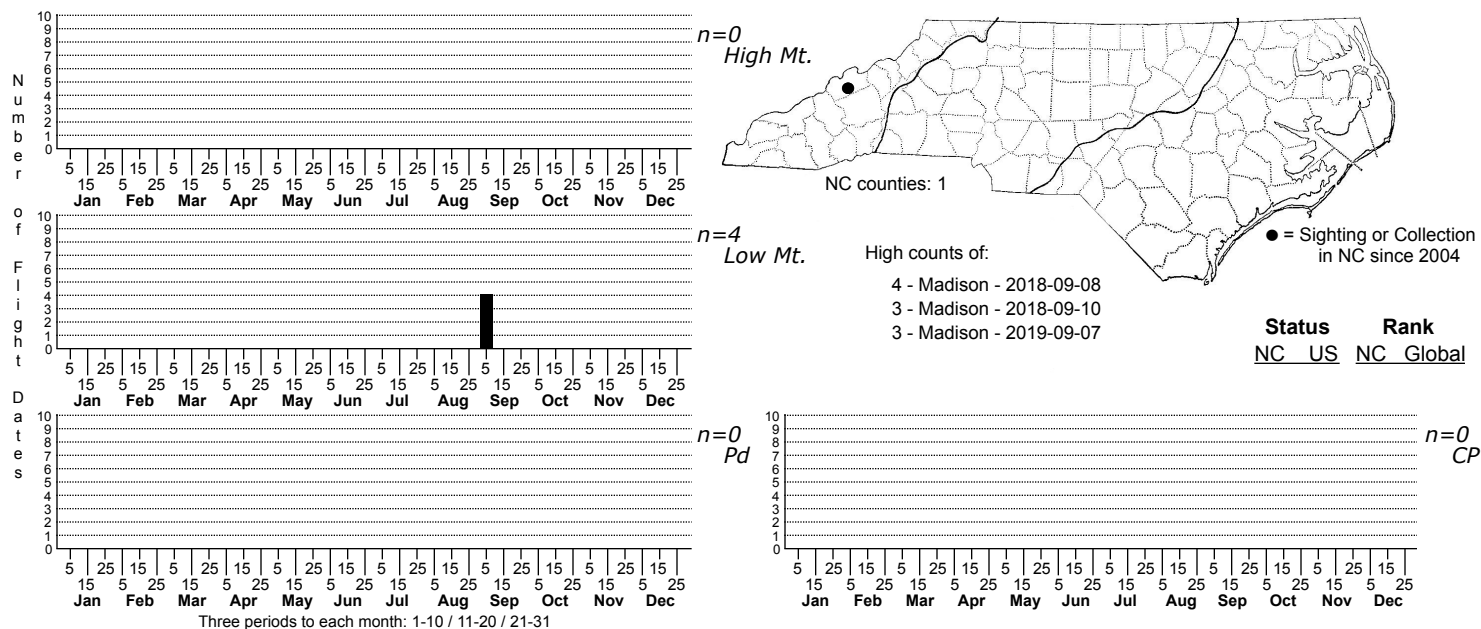


Podosesia aureocincta Banded Ash Clearwing Moth



FAMILY: Sesiidae SUBFAMILY: Sesiinae TRIBE: Synanthedonini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 30 species of sesiids, broadly known as clearwing borers, currently recognized as occurring in NC. *P. aureocincta* is one of two species of *Podosesia* found in the state. The taxonomy of several groups in this family remains vexing, with some species undoubtedly complexes of several, as-yet undifferentiated species.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984).

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: Sexes similar. Thorax brownish-black with red scales scattered above base of wings and immediately adjacent to abdomen. Abdomen brownish-black, constricted at the base, more so in males. Distinctive, complete or nearly complete yellow orange band on anterior margin of segment 4. Anal tuft brownish-black, pointed. Forewing brownish-black, opaque but for a small hyaline area at base, red on basal margins. Hindwing hyaline with narrow, black margins (Eichlin & Duckworth, 1988). Terminal half of legs yellow, proximal half mixed red, yellow, and black, third pair long, dangled beneath body in slow, hovering flight in the manner of paper wasps. Antennae bicolored laterally, brownish-black and yellow-orange. Wing length 10-17 mm (Eichlin & Duckworth, 1988). **Similar species:** Very similar to closely related *P. syringae*, but that species lacks the yellow orange band on segment 4. Absolute specific differentiation may require genitalic dissection.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Rural, urban, and forested areas where its food plant occurs.

FOOD: Known only from ashes (*Fraxinus* spp.).

OBSERVATION METHODS: So far as is known does not come to lights but may visit flowers. Most easily seen by employing synthetic pheromone traps, to which males are strongly attracted (see Taft, Smitley, & Snow, 2004, for list of species-specific pheromone blends).

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S1S2]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: Poorly understood in NC with only a handful of records, all from the mountains. Its similarity to and probable confusion with *P. syringae* may skew our understanding of its true status in the state. *P. aureocincta* does not pose a threat to ash trees in North Carolina, given the prevalence of *Fraxinus* in the state. However, the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer beetle (*Agrilus planipennis*) in the state in 2013 could potentially impact populations of *P. syringae* in the future.