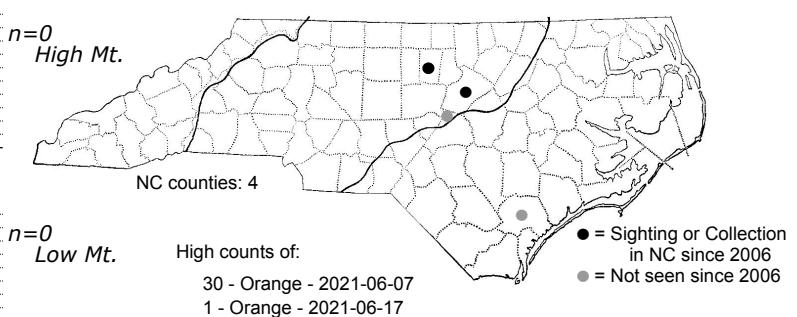
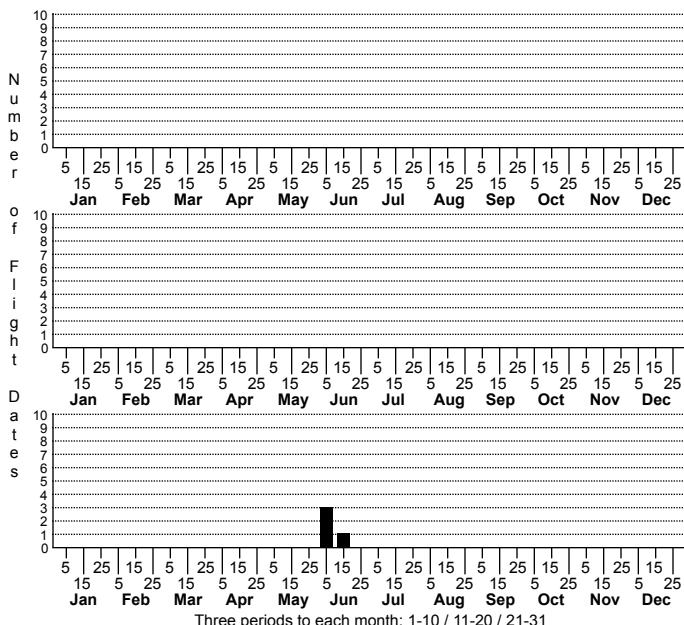


Sannina uroceriformis Persimmon Borer Moth



FAMILY: Sesiidae SUBFAMILY: Sesiinae TRIBE: Synanthonedonini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Of the 136 or more members of the Sesiidae that occur in North American north of Mexico, 37 have been recorded in North Carolina. Some sesiids, known broadly as clearwing borers, are significant pests of commercial crops. The great majority are mimics of wasps and hornets.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Eichlin and Duckworth (1988).

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a large black and red clearwing moth that appears to mimic the spider wasp, *Lophopompilus atrox*. The collar is orange and the labial palp is black and intermixed with orange at the base of the second joint. The head, antenna, thorax, legs and abdomen are all bluish-black, with the latter boldly banded reddish-orange on segment 4 and often the anterior edge of segment 5 (Engelhardt, 1946; Brown and Mizell, 1993; Eichlin and Duckworth, 1988). Small reddish-orange markings are also on the head and the sides of the thorax. The forewing is entirely bluish-black, while the hindwing is similar except for a small transparent window at the base. The males have five prominent black, hair-pencils on the anal tufts, with one short pair and one long pair of lateral tufts, and one long dorsomesial tuft. The females are similar to the males, but have a short, rounded anal tuft with only a single pair of short, dorsolateral tufts. Florida and Georgia specimens are occasionally seen that lack the orange band.

DISTRIBUTION: *Sannina uroceriformis* is endemic to the southeastern US where the range extends from eastern Texas eastward to Florida, and northward to Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, West Virginia, North Carolina and New Jersey. This species is generally absent from the Appalachian region. As of 2024, we have records from both the Coast Plain and eastern Piedmont, with the only non-historical records from Orange and Wake counties.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults typically fly from March through July in different areas of the range, with records also from January and February in Florida. As of 2024, our records are all from early to mid-June.

HABITAT: Local populations are dependent on persimmons for reproduction, and are often associated with sites that have root sprouts or younger samplings and trees on site. Examples include abandoned fields, roadsides, ditch banks and fencerows.

FOOD: Larvae are root borers in American Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), which is the only known host (Herrick, 1907; Mizell, 2006). Heppner (2003) listed Japanese Persimmon (*D. kaki*), but these are commonly grafted onto American Persimmon rootstocks, so additional verification is need for this species.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are diurnally active and are occasionally seen resting on vegetation. The large, blackish, tubular structures ('cocoons') that extend upward and outward from the bark should be searched for during the spring and summer months.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be uncommon to rare in North Carolina, where the only known extant populations occur in Orange and Wake counties.