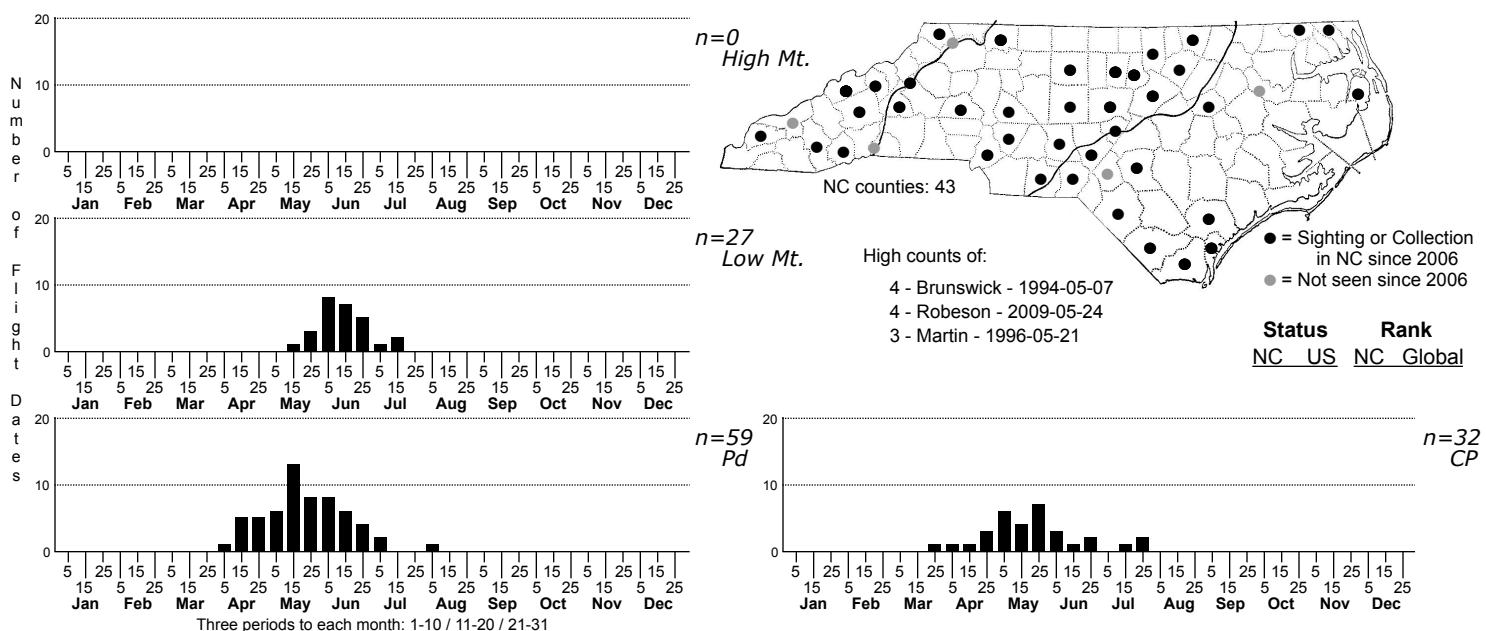


Prionoxystus robiniae Carpenterworm Moth



FAMILY: Cossidae SUBFAMILY: Cossinae TRIBE: [Cossini]

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of three members of the genus in North America, two of which are found in North Carolina. It is among the largest of the "micro-moths."

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (2005); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Packard (1890)

ID COMMENTS: Sexually dimorphic. Both sexes possess a thick abdomen, broad thorax, and disproportionately small head with pectinate antennae. The forewings of the female are black and heavily mottled with black-centered gray spots and blotches, while the hindwings are translucent gray. Males are smaller with narrower, more attenuated forewings that show similar markings but appear noticeably blacker overall. The hindwings of the male have a straighter outer margin and are reddish-orange to yellow, bordered in black. Differentiated from *P. macmurtrei* by less translucent gray-spotted rather than black-striated forewings.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs statewide

FLIGHT COMMENT: Appears to have one main flight, from April to early August in North Carolina

HABITAT: Most of our records come from stands of hardwoods growing in bottomlands or mesic slopes. A few, however, come from xeric sites, including maritime forests, sandhills, and dry ridge tops.

FOOD: The larvae bore into the wood of a wide variety of deciduous trees (Forbes, 1923; Craighead et al., 1950; English, 1958; Prentice, 1966; Baker, 1972; Covell, 1984; Covell, 2005; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010). The reported hosts include Boxelder (*Acer negundo*), Groundsel-tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*), American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), Sweet Chestnut (*C. sativa*), Sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*), fig (*Ficus*), Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), Eastern Cottonwood (*P. deltoides*), Quaking Aspen (*P. tremuloides*), White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Turkey Oak (*Q. laevis*), Live Oak (*Q. virginiana*), Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), willows (*Salix*), American Elm (*Ulmus americana*), and English Elm (*U. procera*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Both sexes attracted to lights, though females are seen more commonly than males. Since the mouthparts of the adults are rudimentary, they do not feed and consequently do not come to bait or visit flowers

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [S5]

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

COMMENTS: This species is widespread in North Carolina and uses a wide variety of habitats, some very common. Consequently, it appears to be secure within the state.