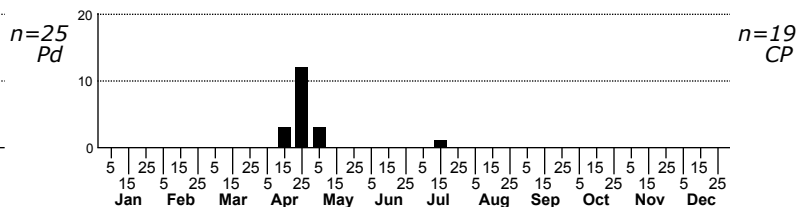
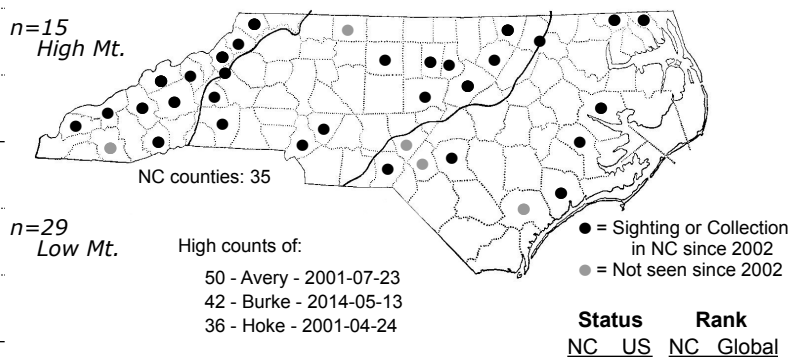
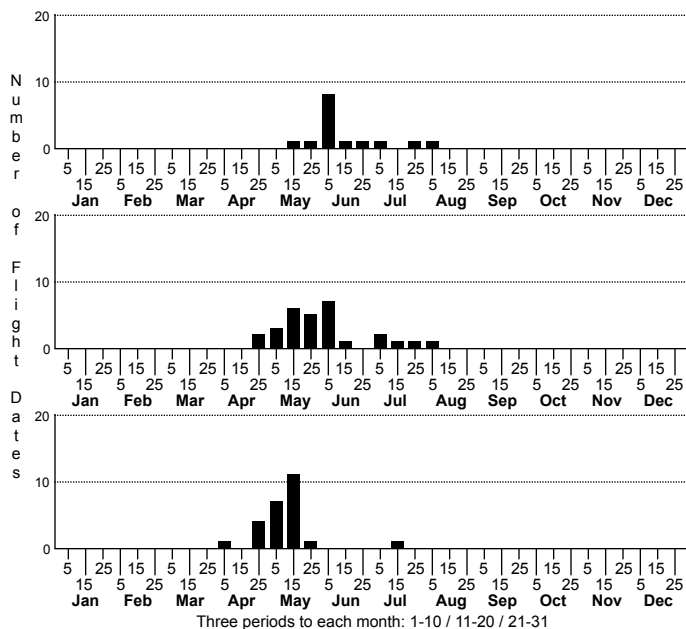


Tortricidia testacea Early Button Slug Moth



FAMILY: Limacodidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of three species of this genus to occur in North America, all of which are found in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS: MPG, BugGuide, BAMONA

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: The easiest of the three *Tortricidia* to identify, although like the others there can be considerable variation among individuals. Typical adults have broad forewings that are creamy-pink to pale orange, though some may appear reddish-orange or brown. Distinguished by broad, diffuse rusty-orange shading that runs diagonally from the mid-point of the inner margin to the apex, a feature that can be absent on especially light-colored individuals and hard to distinguish on dark individuals. It typically rests with abdomen curled up above the wings.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs statewide, although we do not have any records from the Barrier Islands

FLIGHT COMMENT: Appears to fly from late March to August, with no evidence of separate flights

HABITAT: Our records come primarily from wet to mesic hardwood forests, including bottomland forests, pond and lakeshores, cove forests, and northern hardwoods.

FOOD: Broad-leaved trees such as Basswood, Beech, Birches, Black Cherry, Chestnut, Hickories, Oaks, Sourwood, and Witch-hazel (Wagner, 2005).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Comes well to blacklights. Adults have reduced mouthparts and may not feed; we do not have any records from bait or flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 [S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species occurs widely across the state, occupying a broad set of hardwood forests, and making use of a large range of host plants, including many that are common. It therefore appears to be quite secure in North Carolina