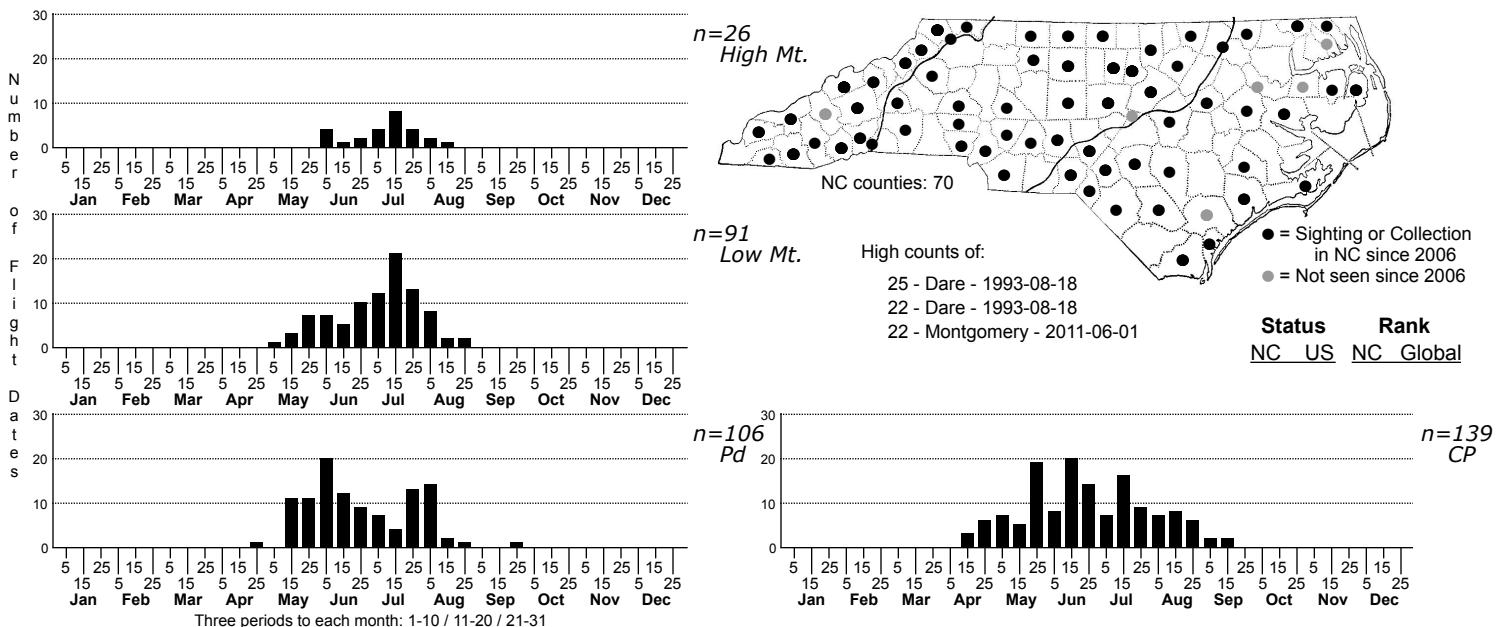


Lithacodes fasciola Yellow-shouldered Slug Moth



FAMILY: Limacodidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Dyars, 1897a; Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: In this species the head, palps, antennae, thorax, and ground color of the forewings vary from ocherous-red to reddish-brown. The forewing has a prominent white fascia that extends obliquely from the middle of the inner margin to the costa at about two-thirds. The fascia is usually jagged, with one or two prominent teeth, and is followed by a deep brown diffuse band. The only other prominent mark is a thin, dark brown to blackish line that extends from the costa at around three-fourths toward the tornus. The line extends perpendicular to the costa for a short distance, then sharply angles posteriorly and curves towards the tornus. The hindwing is dark brown with a slightly paler fringe that has a darker basal line.

DISTRIBUTION: *Lithacodes fasciola* is found throughout most of the eastern US and in adjoining portions of southern Canada from Saskatchewan eastward to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In the US the range extends from Maine southward to northern Florida, and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, central Kansas, central Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and northeastern North Dakota. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from February through September in different areas of the range, with the main flight season from May through September. As of 2023, our records range from late April through mid-September.

HABITAT: Local populations are generally found in deciduous forests and forest edges, as well as in wetlands and semi-wooded residential neighborhoods. Many of our records are either from wetlands or bottomland and mesic forests. We also have records from Sandhill habitats near seepage slopes and headwater streams, as well as semiwooded residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: Larvae are highly polyphagous on hardwood trees and shrubs (Dyars, 1897a; Prentice, 1966; Wagner, 2005; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010), including members of the Betulaceae, Rosaceae, Ericaceae, Fagaceae, Juglandaceae, Aceraceae, Salicaceae, and others (Wagner, 2005). The reported hosts include Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), and other maples, Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*), American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), hickories (*Carya*), chestnuts (*Castanea*), dogwoods (*Cornus*), American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), *Gaylussacia*, Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), apples (*Malus*), bayberries (*Myrica*/*Morella*), American Hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) and other cherries, oaks (*Quercus*), willows (*Salix*), American Basswood (*Tilia americana*), American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) and other elms, and huckleberries (*Vaccinium*). In North Carolina, larvae have been recorded feeding on Box-elder (*Acer negundo*), a hickory, American Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), American Beech, American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), and a willow.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S5

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

COMMENTS: This is a widespread and common species that is secure in North Carolina.